C.B. Koford

California Condor Study

1946 (Part 1)

January 10 - May 31

Species Accounts

Gymnogyps californianus

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

June 8, 1941 Mt. Pinos, Ventura Co.

Saw no condors all day while on Mt. Pinos from about 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ~~both~~ at Seymour Camp, Chula Vista, and top of the mountain. Sid Peyton told me that he had seen condors in the hills east of the Pine. Boris (?) King, ~~a~~ brother of Dale King, owned most stock land there. That area is accessible via Val Verde Canyon by road.

June 9, 1941. Nr. Bailey Ranch, Los Angeles Co.

I drove from Fillmore to Delano. Turned off at Bailey ranch looking for Jerry Condon. Drove 3± miles west of the ridge into a valley with a few cattle. ~~Much~~ Great rough rock slopes visible toward Pine Creek, & Jerry probably has some headquarters in that area. A woman at first house ~~after~~ after turnoff from ridge-route said she had heard of condors and rarely seen one fly over. An old man who formerly worked and mined (?) in these mountains lived about 1/2 mile S± of the Bailey Ranch gate - perhaps he has some information. The Bailey Ranch area is worthy of ~~inqu~~ investigation via questioning. Some old timers live on Pine creek and are reachable from this side.

January 10, 1946 Berkeley, Calif.

Ward Russell, of MVZ, picked up a condor mounted with outspread wings at the Cohen home in Hayward in mid-November, 1945. He relaxed the bird, removed the humeri (one broken), & put the bird in study skin form

Ben Kloding

about 2 mi. S. Annette.

about Summer 1942

Can Eben McMillan < Chglame Shardon

~~with Jersman~~ In pickup - one close overhead.

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apr. ± 1942 - 5 or 6

th Eb McMillan - Big Pine Mtn. near Carrizo Plains

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to be sent to Varbies at Arizona. The bird is again in good condition though very old - many feathers missing on belly; head artificially colored. I copied the following data from a card accompanying the bird: "324 California Vulture. Gymnogyps californianus. C. Condor. unsexed. H R Taylor 1890 Shot with #90" [probably refers to another specimen] "M. Sargent, Cal. D.A. Cohen collection. Alameda, Cal." At San Francisco, F. & G. Commission, Ferry Bldg., I talked with Ben Gladding & Henry (?) Hjersman (sp.?) about condors. Ben said he saw one about 2 miles S. of Annette, Kern Co., Calif. in summer of 1942. This bird flew low over their pickup truck. [Near Cholame]. Ben said Can McMillan at Cholame and Eben McMillan at Shandon were well up on the birds & history of that section - it would be well to contact them for information. ~~Jersman~~ Hjersman said he saw 5 or 6 near top of Pine Mtn. (?) near Pozo about April of 1942. He will send for his notes & give me exact info later. At the time he was with Eben McMillan

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on a birding trip. On 20 December Don McLean talked & showed movies at C.O.C. meeting. These included condor pictures taken in Hopper Basin. Extensive shots of one adult preening ~~perched~~ on a Ps. near Parking Knoll. Apparently taken in a.m. before takeoff; in warm weather I judged as ruff was down. Pictured also was Frank Arundell holding Oscar at #1 nest cave. Oscar's wings were entirely downy (dark gray) and flappy - ~~for~~ Frank held Oscar by elbows & backed wings up & down. Oscar reached up to snap at Frank's face or hat at one time. McLean also said a man named Roland (?) Curtis had seen a condor between Sacramento & Roseville recently. McLean showed pictures too of the "condor cafeteria" on Oil Ridge S. of Fillmore. Coyote carcasses were laid out near a blind. The photos showed only a single golden eagle feeding. McLean said one shadow which passed over was that of a condor, & also that as many as 18 condors came there. It is not improbable that this number did look over the bait, but I doubt that they fed at such an artificial setup-

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apparently the camera did not catch a single one feeding.

18 January 1946 San Francisco, Calif.
With Dr A H Miller went to Treasure Island to see condor pictures taken by Telford Work last year. Besides Work, Harold M Hill (St. Lukes Hospital), Albert J Wool (San Jose, 5435 McKee Rd.) and J. Kent Carnie (Mountain View, Calif., 1249 Latham St.) were present. All but Carnie had been on at least some of the 10 trips they took to photograph condors in 1945. Lt(jg) Work is interning at S.F. & Oakland Naval Hospitals; Hill was formerly in the navy & expects to be called back in April. Carnie was about 18 & was interested in falconry.

Last year the group took 10 trips - from April to October - to Hopper Basin to photograph condors. Someone had given them a clue to a possible nest near Big Cave - it was hinted that the info came from a collector who had been in there in 1940. The group had been let through the road gate at Arundells by the Arundells - there were "about 16" locks on the Arundell

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gate, they said. There is now a road along Hopper Rim, across to the east above Oscar's nest, then toward Big Cave. A tractor trail runs from this road to the creek below Big Cave. These men thought the tractor trail should be allowed to grow over as it made the ~~[illegible]~~ nest too accessible. On one occasion a dead dog, found on highway, was laid out on the open rock near Oscar's & the photographers hid in a nearby cave - but no results. On another occasion they got a goat from Pete Legan & ~~let~~ laid it out near same spot - no photographs, but upon returning to the area later they flushed a bunch of condors from the spot. Don Bleitz of Hollywood may have gotten some pictures there which included condors.

Bleitz takes only 4x5 stills - Kodachrome with 16" telephoto lens. Work uses a Rolleicord for stills & a 16 mm. movie camera with up to 6" telephoto lens for movie work (Kodachrome). Work has about 100 black & white prints of the youngster & one adult at the nest & about 1½ hrs. of 16 mm. movies - much of excellent quality. The others present including Dr. Hill apparently had taken no pictures of condors. The brother

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of Work (?) & the father of one of the group had also been to the nest.

Work's nest was near the corner of Condor Cliff between a large stone slab & the main cliff. The nest faced about NW & could be walked into from below. This nest was almost directly below that of the Duck Hawks on Condor Cliff - 100' (?). The cave was about 20 ft. long & the egg found at the inner extremity on the sandy floor. Dr. Hill found the nest when he walked about 10' (?) from the mouth & flushed an adult. The egg was a large one - ~~over~~ 5 3/8" they measured with a steel tape. The egg was photoed in the nest & held in the hand in the sun outside of the nest for more photos - this later after Dr. Hill had left on he did not approve of this. The egg was found early in April & the chick first found about 5 days old they estimated - in May; they estimated it hatched about May 15. The egg shell was present at that time & photos show the bird with an egg tooth. Photos show the claws on alula & tip of wing & the youngster held in sunlight. Youngster was white downed & well formed with apparently sharp

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claws. Photos show youngster with full crop & holding head up. Chick did not regurgitate on first trip. On later trips it did. The photos show a great deal of handling of the chick.

On one trip adult was in the cave when they entered. She was captured & banded with an eagle band. The old bird was kept for 2 or 3 hours, photed, wingspread measured, etc. Movies show all this & details of head color. Head & neck could not be held with one hand - very strong. It was all two men could do to hold the bird. At one point the chick was brought near the adult for a picture & the adult snapped at it (luckily missed). When released, attempt was made to get a photo of ~~bird~~ adult flying off from the cave. One of the men gave adult a toss ~~to~~ to launch it but adult swung around & ran back into cave to the chick. Some photos of adult & chick together were taken (adult standing with head down near chick). Soon after adult ran to a rock point 100± ft. away, spread wings as if sunning for a while, then took off. No other pictures of the next adults perched were taken. Work said that 2 adults were

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seen nearly on the next trip. The youngster was found dead & considerably consumed by carnivores (?) on Oct. 21. Carcass located at back of cave within inches of where egg was found. Scats were collected in cave & given to Dr. Benson but so far unidentified. Parasites from carcass were given to Dr. Herman (sp.?) of Fish & Game Comm. (Strawberry Canyon) - he believed them all to be post mortem. The only parasites observed on the bird during life were winged ones which hid among the feathers. No bones were collected from cave floor tho photos seem to show some. Photos show the usual acorns in the nest cave too.

The day adult caught, chick was found drenched with predigested food. Adult regurgitated "about a pint" of this too but it was too far gone for identification. Adult was not heard to utter a sound. Chick gave the ugh-ugh sounds often.

Chick was banded twice - once with an eagle band & later with a silver band specially made & engraved by Grant Bros. Tarsus of chick was larger than adult. It was the impression of Hill & others that the adult was quite lean & light - about 16 lbs. The

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wingspread of adult was 8'2" (±) without great stretching. Adult had definite pink spots on tarsus in front of heels. Adult was tired (?) to point of lying quite still at times while photos were being taken.

The group also collected feathers & pellets (condors? - I doubt it) from below Whitewash Ledge. Pictures of one adult drinking were obtained - the bird flew up onto cliff tops from below in the morning - probably roosted on Whitewash Ledge or near it. Adult nibbled, picked up, & dropped a limp object 4± long while drinking. The pool bottom & sand nearby atop Big Cone was covered with condor tracks in the photos.

Work plans to complete & show a condor movie. He is working on other pictures too so may not finish for a year or more. Dr. Miller explained the condor protection system to work & Will & it was agreed that nothing should be released which would arouse too much condor interest until protective measures were in effect. Will had talked with Pemberton & Cravenmiller about condor protection & the possibility of closing Hopper Basin as a refuge on a previous

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occasion. Hill's impression from Cranemiller was that the ~~only~~ main reason ~~the region was~~ theft action was not being taken was because oil exploration rights had already been granted for that area; Hill & Work both thought that a gate with only a Forest Service lock above Pete Legan's place would be a good idea. This bunch was apparently not on too good terms with Don Bleitz - maybe he has "gone Hollywood".

These men "candled" the condor egg with a flashlight several times & said there was a large air space (1/4±) on the last visit before the chick hatched. A condor article full of misinformation appeared in the S.F. Chronicle in Tod Lawell's column last (?) year, they said - Dr. Hill has the article.

28 January 1946 San Francisco, Calif.

Visited Dr Harold M Hill at St Lukes hospital in San Francisco (he is an intern there). He showed me articles from Tod Lawell's column (The Woodsman) in the SF Chronicle for March 30, April 11, & April 17, 1945, referring to condor reports near Porterville and in S. Monterey Co. and at Pinnacles Nat'l. Mon. I got these articles from the SF Chronicle for my clipping file. Hill said he had visit-

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28 January 1976 San Francisco, Calif.

ed The Pinnacles (San Benito Co.) and talked to a man named Haine who works there. Haine said he had seen no condors there for 20 years. In 1893, Haine said, some deer hunters took an egg there, & part of the wooden scaffold they built to reach the ~~nest~~ nest was still standing. Hill was told of the Hopper Canyon nest locale by a certain party about whom Hill is very secretive. This party is apparently a collector who was in the area in 1940 & reported an egg in the nest on March 14, 1940. The egg was found in 1946 on April 3 by Hill. April 4 a goat was put out on the rocks near Osa's nest. On April 6 when the group was returning to the area, 4 condors were near the carcass, 2 or 3 on trees nearby, & others in the air (22 to 24 total). The carcass had been consumed down to skin & bones. (Forgiving about feeding from Al Wool's notes). Later a deer carcass was put out near the goat - Don Bleitz obtained photos of condors feeding on this carcass (turkey vultures & golden eagles too). On April 7, 1945, 4 deeds hawk eggs were collected from the cliff above Hill's nest. Hill has had some correspondence

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regarding condors with John Baker, Pemberton, Cravemiller, and F C Lincoln.

T. Work has flown over Hopper Basin in a private plane, taken pictures of it from the air, and seen condors from the plane. Such sight-seeing may well add to the disturbance of the condors in the future.

1 February 1946 Porterville, Calif.
Obtained address of Ross C. Welch, game warden (lives on W. Putnam, Porterville; phone 499, box 648) from Chamber of Commerce. Found also that Jim Vincent, cattleman, lives near Jack Ranch (Posey P.O.) in the White River area. Both these men were mentioned in S.F. Chronicle article of 30 March 1945, Vincent supposedly having found an injured condor & killed it for specimen purposes. Next went to USFS headquarters in Porterville and talked with the ranger & 2 other men, & showed them condor photos. They had only a vague memory of the condor incident & practically no knowledge of condor identification. They said there had been lookout reports from Blue Ridge and Oak Flat lookouts in the past, but none in last couple of years. They

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said the lookouts used to have forms for reporting condors - I infer that the form has died during my absence. The secretary, who lives in Calif. Hot Springs district, said she saw one feeding on a calf there about a year ago. I looked at the fine relief map of Sequoia Nat'l Forest in the office - White River lies in the foothill region. Oak Flat, Blue Mtn., & Blue Ridge (S. to N.) have lookouts from which condors might be seen in this region. Breckenridge Mtn. also has a lookout. Walker Basin appears to be readily accessible to condors in the Block Mtn. - Breckenridge Mtn. area too. Talked with Ross Welch, game warden. He had been warden at Tehachapi until 1931, then at Kernville, then (since 1940) at Porterville. He was inclined to be overtalkative but some of his information seemed sound. In 1930, Welch said, he saw condors feeding near Moralith. He took a picture & sent it to F & G commission. The picture showed 3 on a fence & 12 on the ground, Welch said, & he was not sure what the birds were at the time. Don MacLean came down to the area with a photographer & they tried to get pictures of the condors but with little

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February 1, 1946 Porterville, Calif.

success. They used a pit blind & put a horse & other carcasses out trying to get feeding pictures. Welch said MacLean thought there must be a "rookerie" east of Monolith. Welch said he saw some "nesting" in Horse Canyon (near Monolith?) at a later date. They got one picture of a condor taking a squirrel away from a raven, Welch said. The squirrels had been poisoned with thallium. A rancher told Welch he had seen some "big buzzards", much larger than turkey buzzards, feeding on 5 or 6 sheep which had ~~been~~ died from eating thallium (in grain?). About 1932, on Tejon Ranch, Welch said, the ravens were causing trouble with young stock, so strychnine poisoned bait was put out for them — condors & buzzards ate this without ill effect. In the Monolith-Cummings Valley area, the condors would ~~appear~~ appear about 10 a.m. & leave just before sundown, Welch said. Welch also said he had seen condors near Buttonwillow, & that an old Mexican there had told him they used to lasso the birds & use the feathers to make pens out of. About 1933 in Walker Basin, Welch said, he found a dead

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condor, but he had seen none alive there. He said also he had heard reports of condors at Indian Creek, Antelope Valley, & even north of Mojave. Around Porterville Welch recalled having seen none in winter. Last year he saw 8 about 8 miles east of Porterville (he marked about halfway between Success & Springville on the map. He also claimed to have seen condors near Fountain Springs & White River (a few miles SE of these), & it was in this area (Coyote Springs) that Jim Vincent found an injured condor last spring (about May Welch judged). This bird was killed by Vincent (Welch ~~thought~~ its initial injury was a rifle wound) who had it mounted by Coburn of Los Angeles. I saw the bird, a well mounted adult in the standing position, at Price's Hardware Store, 317 (?) N. Main St., Porterville. The claws of this bird were long & but slightly blunted. Vincent lives near Jack Ranch & is a well known cattleman. He visits "The Orange" bar when in town. The game warden & F & G Commission were notified when the bird was found. Welch wanted it given to the Univ. of Calif. but Vincent wanted it kept in the Porterville

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area but available for study. Welch said there were occasionally condors back from Mohave in Pine Tree and Jaw Bone Canyon. He had also seen them near Lebec and Castaic Lake, he said. ~~Welch~~ Welch suggested Ruben Gulliam of Porterville as a possible source of information; he formerly ran stock in the White River area. This area is best accessible by a road from Ducor, said Welch; there are many gates (locked) along the road, but Welch offered to take me through there at some future date. Welch didn't believe condors got east beyond Walker Basin. He did not believe they frequented the mountains east of Porterville but used the foothills for feeding & returned to distant roosts nightly.

I drove from Porterville to the SSE to Fountain Springs. The latter half of this road passes through treeless rolling grassy hills, well populated with stock. ~~From~~ From Fountain Springs to White River there are scattered oaks & increasing hilliness. From White River east the terrain gets more mountainous, oaks are close together, & there is only occasional open ground. There was light snow in spots at

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February 1, 1946 Nr. Porterville, Calif.

Vincente place (about 3 miles NE of Blue Mtn.) and occasional digger pines. Blue Mtn. lookout should overlook the lower White River country. The country east of White River seems too wooded for much condor feeding. Welch placed the spot where Welch found the condor at about 3½ miles west of White River (town).

Mrs G R Buckingham told me there had been a small article in the Bakersfield paper telling of a condor being killed in the White River district. She thought the article said the man had shot the condor because he thought it was injured.

Vincent did not turn up by 0530 p.m. so I left a letter requesting that he write ~~some~~ some notes on the subject & send them to me, & I returned to Delano.

February 2, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

Talked with Buford Fox, Kern Co. asst. Agricultural Commissioner, 2610 M. St., Bakersfield (phone 7671, ext. 44). While waiting noted a display of poisoned grains which included zinc phosphide whole barley for squirrels, strychnine barley for squirrels, zinc phosphide rolled oats for squirrels, & other strychnine seeds for blackbirds, horned larks, & others.

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February 2, 1996 Bakersfield, Calif.

Fox said there were condors daily for about two months in May and June in the Poso Creek area (about 10 miles east of Famoso) when squirrels were being poisoned (Fish & wildlife?) there last year (May & June). Many buzzards too. Joe Keyes was present during the poisoning & took some pictures from a blind - the best of these was printed in the Bakersfield paper (Fox sent in the article). Fox said he also saw condors near Edison - beyond the last potato shed, about 500 yards north of the railroad tracks - last year; a total of 17 birds at once feeding on a dead sheep, and 10 or 15 buzzards. This was in a grain field (new planted).

Fox said a trapper caught a condor in a trap some years ago in the Baker Grade area near Bena - this area, up the side of Breckenridge Mtn, is where Fox thinks the condors roost when feeding nearby as they appeared fairly early daily (near Poso Creek). The condors ate poisoned squirrels every day, Fox said. Poisoning was largely with 1080 (sodium flauroacetate), a war developed poison, & quite deadly. Only 1 oz. is used to 100 lbs. of grain. Over

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February 2, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

40,000 acres were poisoned last year, Fox said. Two trappers are working in Kern Co. now - one from East Hills & 1 from Maricopa - but Fox says they are not the type that would notice birds. Condors & buzzards are apparently unaffected by eating 1080 poisoned squirrels, for none was found dead tho squirrels were eaten daily, Fox said. Piper, an ornithologist, from the State Dept. of Agriculture, studied the effect of 1080 on birds. Joe Keyes should know much of this too. Fox maintained that condors were far from becoming extinct - this I believe is a false impression caused by many condors being in one area. The 17 was the largest number Fox had seen. Kalmbach from Denver was through recently & wanted badly to see a condor - but didn't. Fox had heard of no condors in Cummings Valley recently. He was taken aback by my interest in 1080 - said maybe he shouldn't have mentioned it. He has no love for the Audubon Society either - they have opposed poisoning sparrows around farms.

Drove east on highway 466 toward Tehachapi. Light breeze, a few high clouds, & quite warm. Some cattle in lowlands to N. of road

3:27 9, then 6 - crel leg.

3 26 - to s . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

3:30 - gone - 3 atk.

37 - rad. Coyote

44 - 2 cre + mis.

20

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February 2, 1946 Nr. Edison, Calif.

near Mt. Adelaide. Spent an hour searching with binocs near Mt. Adelaide but saw no condors - ravens, buzzards, & golden eagles were located. Air increasingly calm & sky clouding - a storm soon, it appears. Drove up to the Arvin road and 4± miles toward Arvin so as to scan Bear Mtn. and the plains toward Arvin. At 3:~~0~~ 17 saw one condor circling near the head of a canyon which leads toward Arvin from the top of Bear Mtn. Within a few minutes there were 4, then 6 circling together & rising over the head of the canyon. A fair ~~fr~~ breeze was blowing up the canyon. At 3:25 this group was heading S. toward Cummings Mtn. in a steady glide. Spacing was even at first, then ... . →.., then .... At 3:30, out of sight, but 3 others now circled over the same knoll of Bear Mtn., & these too headed S. after rising to about 800' altitude. 3:37, saw 1 adult about 2000' down the mtn. and 1± mile N. of where the birds had circled. 3:44, 2 were circling and rising above the same knoll again, & these too went S. together - at least 9 condors, probably 11, were seen in the foregoing instance. I believe they were working their way S. after

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February 2, 1946 ~~Baker~~ Nr. Arvin, Calif.

feeding somewhere further north. B. Fox had told me of a carcass above Boy Springs on Breckenridge Mtn. Perhaps the birds fed there. By 4:20 located no more condors, so drove to Arvin & then Tejon Ranch. Saw two sheep camps between Arvin & Tejon Ranch. These sheep are brought in for lambing, Perry Sprague of Tejon Ranch told me. Usually there is no big sheep movement from Cummings Valley until May or June. Perhaps these sheep have furnished some condor food. Perry Sprague said he had seen no condors in the last couple of years but he ascribed no particular reason for this.

February 3, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Sid Peyton told me that about 3 years ago Michael (sp.) had packed a photographer from the east, with a German name (John Storer), up to the big meadow below Whitaker Peak (on W. side). He had put out carcasses and got some fine pictures of condors feeding.

About 3 weeks ago, Strotheam (sp) had seen 40+ condors at Torrey (canyon opposite Piru) at a carcass.

Peyton, Ed Harrison, & Redrock (sp.) of

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February 3, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Denver had visited Happer Rim to collect plant & animal specimens for a habitat condor group at Denver Museum. They saw 7 immature condors at that time, Did said. Also they found a .22 & .410 which proved to belong to Don Bleitz. Peyton offered to take me to 3 old nest sites in Pine Canyon and one in Caldwater Canyon at some future date. A party of Coast & Geodetic Survey men are at present working on Happer Rim, Did said, & camping in Pole Canyon.

February 4, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Lawrence Peyton said he had been in the San Pedro Martir last August & in 8 days in the mountains (8500± ft.) saw no condors. He had asked Mrs. Melling if any condors had been seen and she had told him none for the last couple of years. Only 1 or 2 before that, Lawrence said. This June, Lawrence & Did Peyton are going to Lamer Calif. to collect & they assured me they would inquire about condors. Hiked up Big Sespe canyon to Caldwater Canyon (Henley's old place) with Did Peyton Sr. & Jr. Met Lee Michel (sp.?) on the way. He had some stock near the West Fork which he occasionally visited. He said he had

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February 4, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

seen two condors flying about & landing on the cliffs across from ~~near~~ the old green cabins (about 1 mile above ~~co~~ Coldwater Creek). Sid told me that Denley had told him of condors nesting one year on the ridge between Pine & Coldwater Canyon about 400' up from the bottom. Sid also told me that when two condors were collected in the head of Coldwater Canyon for the Calif. Acad. of Sciences, 23 condors roosted there fairly regularly. Sid had also seen condors bathing above the falls in ~~the~~ Coldwater Canyon, & Frank Arundel had taken an egg there. The head of Coldwater Canyon - now lightly snow blanketed - seems to have lots of good roost trees & nesting cliffs - why was this roost abandoned? Sespe Canyon, in contrast to most areas, has become less civilized rather than more. The road now reaches only to the dam (Pine Creek before war). At one time it extended clear up to the bend of the Sespe when an oil rig was started there. The 1938 flood washed out the road for good. Lee Michael told us of packing in a man named "Stories" to the meadow above (E. of) Squaw Flat to get condor pictures. This was doubtless John Storer. According to Michael, Storer was

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February 4, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

taking the pictures for a glider company. Over two weeks he paid Michael $135 for the services of his stock. Three calves were killed for condor bait. The first was clubbed about 5 p.m. & Michael left the carcass immediately - buzzards came the next day, but no condors. The next calf was killed about 5 p.m. too & cut open. Michael said the condors were there in an hour & some pictures were procured [sounds goofy]. The third calf was cut open the full length, put out in the morning, & the stock was nearby. The condors came, said Michael, and one ~~took~~ swooped on the calf & dragged it about 25 feet [probably a eagle if true]. Stoner was not interested in the feeding habits of the condors, only the flight, according to Michael. Michael willingly told me his "idee" of how condors find food. "It is like the way pigeons released at sea find their way home", he said. There is a certain "blend" which tells them where the food is, he said he thought.

February 5, 1945 Pole Canyon, Calif.

at 3:25 pm. left Arundell's gate to drive to

February 5, 1996 Nr. Fillmore, Calif.

Hopper Rim. Sky clear, light breeze, & cool. At 3:50 saw 3 condors (2 ad + adults) circling & rising over Oat Mtn. (1 high, 2 low). They rose to about 1,000' then glided toward Hopper Basin passing above & E. of Hopper Mtn. top. Could not drive beyond Hopper Ranch trail, so parked & hiked to Parking Place. Saw one condor over E. side of Hopper Mtn. at 5:15; it headed toward Big Cave area. Sidney Peyton Jr. was accompanying me on this trip. We camped near Hopper Ranch trail.

Talked with Gene Percy earlier today. He said he had seen ~~14~~ 40 condors on a cow carcass on Arundell Ranch below Black Cap (Bob Canyon). This instance - when he saw over 40 - is related in a letter to me (see my info file). In 1943 there had been a heavy snowfall. Oak tops were broken & brush mashed down so that trails were obscured. This year for Forest Service men have been working ~~out~~ at brushing out the Arundell Spring trail (my WT Canyon) and Spring Canyon trail (below Pemberton Rock). Percy said Don Bleitz phoned him once asking about condors. Bleitz also phoned Frank Arundell about same. Percy said once this year he saw 2 or 3 condors fly over his house low (about 1 mile from highway) in Hopper Canyon. Cayatia

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February 5, 1946 Nr. Fillmore, Calif.

have been thick & saucy this year, Percy said. He lost many cattle in the snowy winter but saw no condors feed upon them.

6 February 1946 Happer Canyon, Calif.

Temperature about 30 last night on Happer Rim, but air calm. Heard no coyotes but saw tracks on road. At 8 am left head of Happer Ranch trail with Lid Peyton Jr. We hiked to Pyramid L.O. along the good dirt road ~~exploring~~ scanning some of the old roosts along the way. At 8:30 arrived at Pyramid L.O. It was still in good shape though 3 windows were broken and some tarpaper stripped off. A good many names & dates had been written inside - among them "July 19, 1941. Ornithology Class Field Trip. Instructor Dr. Mary Erickson. Santa Barbara State College." (followed by about 9 names). Frozen snow patches lay were sparse. Sky clear. Sun rose about 7 a.m. Saw 4 condors in Big Cave area. Two were in a shaded hole to N. of Big Cave. They were close together, wings upraised occasionally, & may have been mating or displaying. Two more later entered the hole but all seemed amicable. One sunned with wings spread on White wash Ledge about 8:45. Spotted 3 atop Condor Cliff about 9:00. These were adults, within 5±

Gymnogyps californianus

February 5, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

ft. of one another, occasionally walking about & balancing with wings. Saw one atop the main roost tree in front of Big Cave (in shade) but it left within a few minutes. Again saw 2 on a sunny ledge 100±' north of Big Cave - possibly some mounting attempts, it appeared. At 9:15 there was an uneven fair breeze from N. Saw 6 sure condors - 4 in sun on Whitewash Ledge & 2 atop Condor Cliff as before. All in sunshine. None at pool above Big Cave - possibly frozen solid. Water in creek below Big Cave but not much - 4±' wide at lower end of Condor Creek. Saw no sign at Oscar's or Work's nest - both clearly visible from the lookout. At 9:30, 3 on Whitewash Ledge et al, quiescent in sunshine, & 2 adults on Condor Cliff as before. We left for Oscar's. In Pyramid L O on window was notation in paint "John Lawrence Murray painted here March 5/42". At 9:55 saw one circling over E. side of the basin well down in the canyon - probably not leaving the roosting area. Reached Pemberton Rock at about 10:10 and my #1 nest camp at 11:20. At 11:25 saw 2 condors circling & rising over North Point. One adult, one imm. The adult was highest. Imm. had large chip out of left distal end of tail (2). Noted again the turning movements -

Gymnogyps californianus

February 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

to turn right, left edge of tail tilted down, then right wing tip dipped, then bird turns. The adult glided over Arundell Ridge & circled, the ~~yo~~ imm. rose to 1000±', then headed toward Napper Mtn. & gave 1 wing dip on the way. Breeze faint or absent; sky overcast with cirro-stratus. Smoke hanging in the valleys. A poor soaring day so far, I believe, & these birds probably the first out. 11:43, saw two adults circling & rising over the ridge NW of #1 nest cave. They rose together to about 1000'; then glided together toward Whitecrest Peak. About 11:47 an immature had appeared below the circling adults - it had an outer left secondary missing (at least 2 imm. seen today). It circled & rose to about 300'; then glided after the adults (½± mile behind). A fresh breeze now blowing up the canyon. Went to cliff top above #1 nest cave. Descended by rope to the cave. It smelled of condor but there was no evidence of it having been used since 1939. At 12:30 we left Oscar's & hiked E. to the road (quite lovely). Saw 2 condors circling over the rim W. of Oscar's. Later saw 1 over rim near North Cliffs - it came within 1/4 mile, circling (adult). At about 1:20 saw 3 adults circling near where the road reaches top of the E. rim. A youngster circled near them.

ford

2867

Gymnogyps californianus

February 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

One adult had feet down. Later saw one ~~adult~~ imm. soar past us (1/4 ± mile) heading toward Condo Cliffs; & 2 adults circling over the Big Cave area. Later two adults (same?) were seen heading N. from near that area (300± 'alt.) and at 1:30 we came upon 6 on a ~~light~~ sandstone out-cropping (the ones in air & 2 from S. probably landed). This ~~cliff~~ rock was unwhitewashed but contained many potholes, & is located 200± yds. N. of where road reaches summit of the E. Rim. Birds spaced ×oo ×oo oo, ~~about~~ 20' between pairs. One each of lower two pairs was imm., all others adult. They stood quietly and we watched from the road. Had they detected food nearby? or had air currents failed. The breeze was light from SW. about 1:35 one of the upper adults took off & headed S±. about 1:38 all the others left & took a similar course, some flapping 2± times. One adult had an outer left secondary & one an inner left primary out. One youngster ~~was~~ was different from 2 previously seen today - so at least 3 imm. have been seen. At ~~1:3~~ 1:47 and adult circled 1/4± S. of us then bore off to E. We continued on the road and at 2:20 arrived at its end ~~in~~ the head of

3:10 - B ¢ 4 on el. mm. over, then 3 more
8 ~~tot.~~ 5 rebound
Game 3:20 ±. Left 3:30. 3 on 1 tree, 1 on other
on ar. R. Thrashe - step 2", length.

Ford

2863

Gymnogyps californianus

February 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Upper Condor Canyon near Two Peaks. We hiked down the canyon to Condor Falls & there (3:05) saw ~~4~~ 5 condors, 3 on Whitewash Ledge (2 ad., 1 imm.), an imm. atop the cliff above them, & an adult 100± ' to W. of the falls on cliff top. We stood still in full view - after about 5 minutes, ~~the~~ one adult took off, circled, & landed on Whitewash Ledge using the backing flaps. Left foot slipped in landing & was brought up again quickly. The youngster atop the cliff took off & then the others, but not before another imm. (a left rectrix missing) began circling above Condor Falls, & 3 new birds approached from N± - at least 8 condors; at least 4 imm. These left around Condor Cliff, then 5 returned, circled low over us & Root Tree, then all left (about 3:20). We found condor tracks near the falls brink on both sides of the pool, but none over 20' from brink, & comparatively few tracks - made by 3 birds at best I judged. One "step" measured about ?2" from center toe to rear toe & was about 2" off-set. At 3:30 we left for the road at Two Ps., hiking up the rock ledges above N. Condor Cliffs. I saw 2 or 3 condors in top of one Ps. on Arundell Ridge - probably the birds we scared from the Falls roosted there. Gone for

Ford

2864

Gymnogyps californianus

February 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, 6 lit.
at ~~cb~~ Whitewash Lodge
one adult, no condor seen today seemed to have a bulging crop, yet activity apparently started about 11:30 and ended about 3 p.m. At 4:10 saw one adult near Two Ps., 100± alt., heading S±. Perhaps today's feeding was nearly to NE of Hopper Basin. At Condor Falls, good clear water was running freely though ice formed from spray at falls top. The camp (F.S.) at Pemlent Rock was abandoned - the trail repair completed, I suppose. We returned via the road to our camp at junction of road + Hopper Ranch trail. No one but us has apparently used this road since the storm of a couple of days ago. The road is not passable to autos clear to end, but to about a mile from it (if dry). Impassable now due to mud, snow, + water. No sign of the C&GS men - perhaps they have finished too. The burn which swept up from the creek bottom 1± mile below Oscar's to the W. Rim has grown up so as to form a fairly effective barrier to man or horse. A tractor trail cuts off the road E. of Oscar's + goes to Condor Creek below (1/4± mile) Big Cave. One adult at Big Cave had a short outer secondary in each wing. One bird had #6 ± left primary missing. I searched for leg band on close soaring condors - closest adult 50±' overhead - but saw none.

Gymnogyps californianus

February 7, 1946 Hopper Rim, Calif.

Sunrise 6:50±, sky clear, temp. 45°±. Left camp at 8:15. Arrived Pyramid LO 8:40. On the way saw 2 condors roosting in canyon W. of Parking Knoll. An imm. on a stub branch near top of a dead Ps., & an adult on a branch of another Ps. 200±' further down the slope, both about 200 yds. down from ~~f~~ road level. Perhaps these were some of those we scared from Condor Falls area yesterday. Ruffs up to ears. Both perched facing W. & still in shadow. Occasional gusts of strong breeze. From Pyramid LO spotted no more condors using telescope - found none on Whitewash Ledge or vicinity. Cirrus haze & smoke haze in valleys today. We left LO at 9 a.m. for Whitecrest Peak (we being myself & Sid Peyton Jr.) and at 11:15 were about 200 yds. N. of the peak. Most of the trail was snow covered (3-5"). We continued on down the trail to Squaw F. Cata to the nest cave where I found the egg in 1941. I entered the cave, easily accessible from the trail 50± yds. below. Found many bone fragments which I kept - this circumstance indicates that the nest has been used since my last visit there in 1941. However, the whitewash & smell seemed old & I found no down nor feathers; two plants of about 12" or greater height grew in the cave mouth; there,

Gymnogyps californianus

February 7, 1996 Nr. Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

I do not believe the cave was used last year. At 11:50 I entered the cave - an adult condor soared 100± ' overhead a few minutes later (first seen flying today), then was heard to land nearby. Did + I collected bones - including epiphyses of bones, one rodent (?) humerus (?), a piece of ungulate scapula, + rib fragments, + a weathered carnivore-like tooth. The usual large number of acorns was present - hollow with end chewed off. A few bones were found at rearmost part of the cave - perhaps rodents carried them there. The place where eggs was found was dry + had a slight hollow with a deeper hollow in the center - no condor tracks or scratch marks were present, however, + this hollow was stick littered like the rest of the floor. Left the cave at 12:15 - saw two adults perched in a Ps. atop the cliff to S. of the cave, 150± ' above us + 100± yds. uphill. Probably a pair which will nest this year, perhaps at this cave. Here is evidence of the pair ~~being together before~~ keeping company at the nest site before the egg is laid. I hope to get a good idea of incubation time this year - perhaps will find a February egg at this spot. The trail had been repaired + brushed out as far as Whiteacre Peak but not beyond - yet was passable

Gymnogyps californianus

February 7, 1945 Hopper Rim, Ventura Co, Calif.

to horses as far as we went. At 12:45 reached the summit of the trail again - saw one condor, low, heading for Hopper Canyon over E. side of Whiteacre Peak. Saw 9 deer & one mountain lion in ~~the~~ Deer Meadow W. of Whiteacre Peak - the ~~lion~~ deer left before the lion got ~~to~~ close. At 2:45 left for Parking Place & camp. At 4:20 saw 2 or + on ledges at Big Cave. At 5:00 from Pyramid L O I could spot only 2 at Big Cave F ⌐ •. at 5:07, F ⌐ ••, the left one in a pathole. Air fairly calm since 3 p.m. Dark haze at 3500± ' level. Fog rolling S. over Liebre Mtn. vicinity. 50°F. at 5 p.m. Went to camp. Saw no condors in roosts along the way or on S. Ridge. The condor track we measured at Big Cave yesterday was 6 7/8" from center of rear toe claw to center of center toe claw mark.

February 9, 1945 Pasadena, Calif.

Talked with J R Pemberton re condors. He told me of Hill's (Dr. H M) visit of ~~some~~ some time ago - Pemberton did not know of the activities of Work & Hill in photoing condors but was fairly well impressed by Hill. Pemberton had also been visited by Cronemiller and Swift re measures for condor protection, & he had recommended closure of the Hopper

Gymnogyps californianus

February 8, 1946 Pasadena, Calif.

Canyon area during the breeding season. Pemberton was last at Hopper Rim on Dec. 7, 1941, with his son ~~Johnny~~ Johnny. Johnny goes to a "trailfinders" school & the boys camp in the Sespe as well as at other areas - Johnny (age about 12) says they always see condors. The boys are well educated in condor lore - Pemberton shows his condor movies to them every year (also still shows them occasionally to other organizations). Pemberton said he would run down the status of the oil exploration rights in Hopper Canyon for me - he believes they may have expired or will soon.

February 9, 1946 Hollywood, Calif.

Visited Don Bleitz at his camera shop at 5338 Hollywood Blvd. Bleitz showed me many of the 4x5 kodachrome ~~sho~~ pictures he took in Hopper Canyon last year. He has several of the chick at various stages, pictures of the egg, & scenic pictures of the area. The color is of excellent quality. Bleitz also has color pictures of condors on a deer carcass on the rocks near #1 nest cave and many black and white pictures which I did not see. He offered to print me a set of these pictures when materials were available. ~~&~~ Bleitz said

Gymnogyps californianus

February 9, 1946 Hollywood, Calif.

he had put out many carcasses for the condors in the same area. A horse, which he got from Pete Legan, was untouched. Two dogs were eaten (not seen, but feathers nearby on return). Sheep were also tried, & 2 deer. One of these deer was found dead near Petes - probably 2 or 3 days old & ripped open by coyotes (?) - a doe. This was laid out on the rocks; Bleitz found 20+ condors at the carcass when he returned to it & flushed them. The next day ~~have~~ ravens, then buzzards, fed, & 6 condors came. These fed on the carcass, as many as 3 being at the carcass at once. A single bird lifted the carcass & dragged it behind a rock. Again one dragged it back into view. The remains were estimated at 60 lbs. weight at this time. Some of the birds just sat around on the rocks. With the horse, the birds sat around but did not feed. Don said he would give me a copy of his condor notes & get all his condor pictures together so that I could view them. He takes pictures of birds because he enjoys it and does not approve of egg collecting or handling of the chick or ~~ado~~ egg. The Work picture of the egg out of the nest was

Gymnogyps californianus

February 9, 1946 Hollywood, Calif.

taken when Blitz & Bell were absent, & they were not told of it until the egg had hatched. Blitz is collecting material for a book of bird pictures with some narrative - including condors - but completion is still far in the future. Blitz does color photography for various magazines at high prices ($500± for magazine covers). He seems like a good sort, not likely to harm the birds or give them unfavorable publicity. I warned him against the dangers of mentioning poisoning in connection with condors & advised against publicity until adequate protective measures were in effect. Blitz uses flash bulbs for additional light in many daylight color shots, but he said the condors showed no reaction - at the most one would look slowly around, even though the flash was only about 10 feet away and reflectors in the open. Buzzards gave way to a condor & stood back while the condor was feeding on a deer carcass, Blitz said.

February 10, 1946 Pasadena, Calif.

Visited Jim Fassero who took some condor pictures in the past - he had not been to the condor country since there with me but was anxious to go again - probably with Don Blitz. At Fillmore, Sid Peyton told me that con-

Gymnogyps californianus

February 10, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

dors nested one year ~~near~~ below the cliffs west of Oil Well Pt. (local name) in Big Sespe Canyon. He said he had also seen condors & buzzards at the falls there.

February ~~12~~ 11, 1946 Hopper Mtn., Calif.

Drove up Pole Canyon from Fillmore, occasionally stopping to search for condors. At 3 pm. saw 4 circling & rising about 2 miles SSW of Hopper Mtn. and at 3:05 saw 3 others over head of Pole Canyon heading toward Hopper Canyon. Day cold (40°F), 2/10 cumulus, snowing over Liebre Mtn. & Pine Mtn. areas. a sprinkling of snow on parts of Oil Ridge S. of Hopper Canyon. One bird at least seemed stuffed - so I judge the 7 were returning from feeding. Drove to near Pyramid LO & was in LO at 3:30. Seven condors spaced 100-500 yds. apart were gliding N± over the W. Rim at that time. Upon reaching the LO I saw 18 perched on Whitewash Ledge - ~~some in~~ 4± in potholes, the rest in the open. Wind was 30± mph from NW & air very clear. At about 3:45, 3 more came in over Parking Knoll & I saw 19 others on the cliff (22 total). Watched one adult over 10 minutes. It glided from over Parking Knoll to Condor Cliffs, then wove about in East Canyon until above the E. Rim, then headed toward Big Cave, put feet down, & milled

Gymnogyps californianus

February 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

with 7± others over ~~to~~ the top of the cave. I searched for other perched birds - found but one; this in sunshine near mouth of a cave between 3rd. & 4th. east canyon from Hopper Creek S. of WT Canyon. In years past I ~~had~~ have seen condors (1 or 2) perched in that vicinity (Percy Perch pts.). The cave was 200± ' above the stream; rocks were lightly whitewashed; a possible nesting site. The bird may have been a youngster of last year - very quiet & inactive and unchanged by 4:30 (since 4 or earlier). Even in protected spot it was difficult to write because of cold. The ledges at Big Cave at 4:35 looked about thus:

4:39 - 5 or + condors weaving about the cave tops, some with feet down & roosting birds to make at least 26. One gave 5 beating flaps, feet down, in landing on ledge. 4:42 - 28 now, 2 in air. The wind still fair but somewhat unsteady, from WT. Some condors perched nearly touching & others in same potholes without altercation. 4:45, two ravens soaring near top of Big Cave. at least

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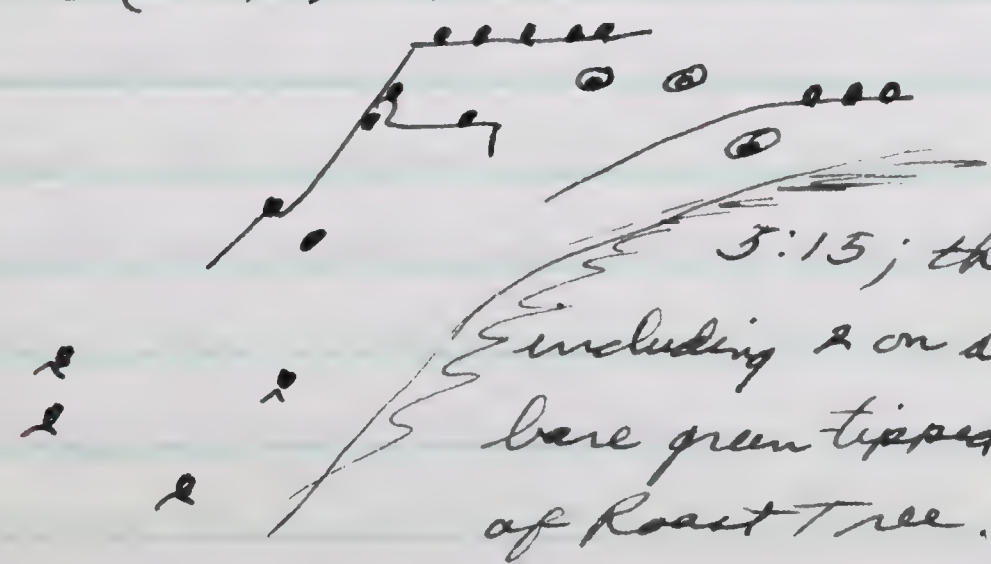
February 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

half the condors near Big Cave are adults. Quiescence predominates tho one occasionally walks about or shifts perches. 5 p.m. - the lone bird beyond Rock Ridge perched as before. 3 adults atop cliff above Whitewash Ledge, 6± in potholes & 16± on open ledges. Two adults atop cliff seemed very friendly & at times it appeared that a mating display was in progress - a 3rd adult stood 10± ft. away. A youngster alighted 6± ' from this 3rd. adult. About 3 minutes later one of the pair walked over to the 3rd adult - the youngster flew away. Some of the perched birds - especially isolated ones in potholes - have apparently not shifted roosts for over an hour. No birds seen roosting in trees; none perched near pool atop Big Cave since 3:30 apparently; no scanning seen. 5:10 - counted at least 30 condors at Big Cave, 4 milling in air about the roost ledges. Sunset shadow has crossed top of Big Cave (5:10).



5:15; these, plus including 2 on a top bare green tipped branch of Roost Tree. Still

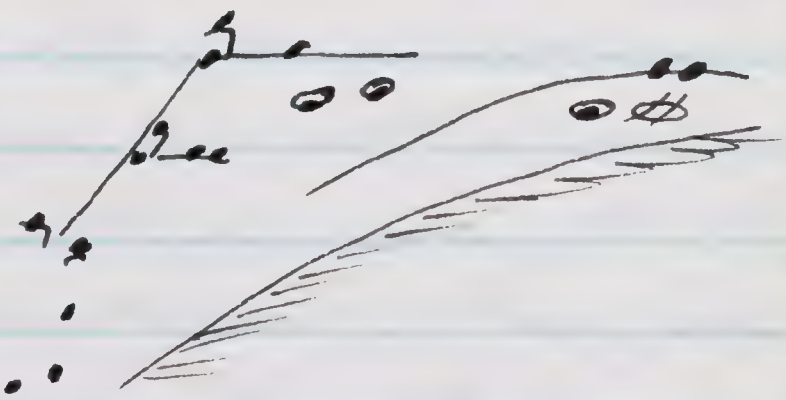
Gymnogyps californianus

February 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

windy & still some roost shifting. 30°F. at 5:20. Two left cliff top for lower perch on rock - direct route, no circling. 5:21, one on tip top of Roost Tree. I left because of the cold & drove to upper Pole Canyon to camp. Strong cold wind continued; snowing on Cobblestone Mtn.

February 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Sky clear, light W. breeze. 32° at 7:10 am at Pyramid ~~to~~ LO. At 7:10 I saw 25 condors at Big Cave, 4 being in top of Roost Tree ~~[illegible]~~, 3 in potholes W. of the cave, & the rest on whitewash ledge & near it - the ledge appeared:



None apparent atop the cliff or at the drinking pool. At 7:15 saw one flap from Ledge as if shifting perch. Two (1 in pothole, one on tree branch) seemed flattened in the roosting position, the others standing. The lone bird beyond Rock Ridge was still there - about 3' from where seen last evening. No snow fell in Hopper Basin last night - some on ridge W. of Cobblestone Mtn. though. Air dry. 7:25, four (3 or 4 adults) flaps glided straight down Condor Canyon below Big Cave & disappeared behind (cliff side of) Arundell Cliffs.

Cord

2875

Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

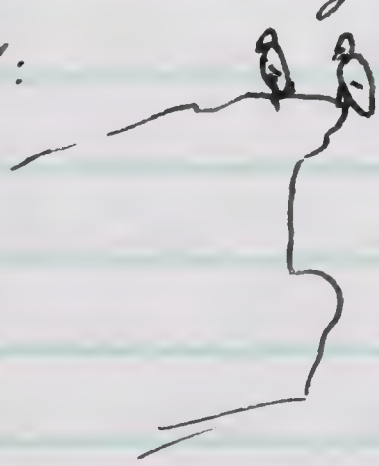
Sunshine line about 60' from birds resting at White wash Ledge - but no movement to meet it. Breeze very faint at times. Scanned Pine & Coldwater Canyon & Oil Well Pt. area in the scope - good view & light, but spotted no condors. Steady stream of water in falls at Oil Well Pt. & Coldwater Canyon. Left for Whitecare Pk. Left road or trail at 8:35 and dropped into the Agua Blanca side at 9:35. At 10:15 was in the Whitecare nest cave - there was no sign of condors having been there since my last visit a few days ago, nor were any condors seen in the area. No breeze, clear sky. Found 2 old primaries down the slope from nest cave, & a tooth & bone tip about 10' below mouth of cave. At 11 a.m. was at a vantage point about 1/4 mile from the nest cave; searched cliffs with binocs, but no evidence of condors. Perhaps my former visit scared away the pair of adults. Was again impressed with the abundant cliffs at E. end of Pine Mtn. (near Thorn Pt.). Left this spot about 11:40. At 12:00 was near top of Whitecare Pk. Saw 6 condors circling above N. W. Rim, so at or past "rising time". Light SW breeze, temp. 48°F., sky 8/10 cirrus. 12:05, I saw one adult on tip of a ledge [next near in 1946 CK], about 1 mile SSW of

XIII

Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

Whiteacre Pk. Another adult circled down & alighted alongside at 12:08±. Ruffs high up on back. This series of ledges - on the Lepe side of Hopper Rim, offer many nesting possibilities. The birds moved 6± ' apart after 5± minutes and were still that way at 12:30. They occasionally preened or looked at their feet - very quiescent - just standing - right sides to sun. Breeze very light. About 12:15 saw 2 circling & rising at same level over W. Rim. Air nearly calm at times - smoky haze in valleys. The rising condors seemed to be using more dihedral than usual - buzzard like. 12:50 - no change in the 2 perched adults; they appeared:



atop the 60± ' high ledge, the highest in a series of 4 such ledges, 150± ' below level of top of highest ledge on W. Hopper Rim. On the steep slope below the birds are many Ps., some with bare limbs which appear suitable for perches & roosts. About 1:07½, outer adult spread wings & stretched back. Ruff down during this process, & the bird preened under parts with bill. 1:10, folded wings slowly, one a little before the other. 1:14±, this outer bird walked around inner one, head down & one wing half raised. The other calmly walk-

Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

ed to ~~antennae~~ point. First followed, & with an easy spring with wings half raised, landed on top of second. Both birds stood calmly thus for about 30 seconds after top one gained its balance. Then it seemed that top one had head & bill close to head of bottom one, & top one flopped gently as if balancing. Top bird jumped off onto rock about 1:16¼, & a few seconds later took off & landed in a dead tree 150± yds. W. of & 100' below the other. ~~E~~ The ♀ (?) remained on its perch, unperturbed apparently after this mounting, & was still the same at 1:25. The ♂ (?) was facing ♀'s direction perched on a top branch of a dead topped Pin. on a top ~~an~~ west-leading ridge running from the first perch point. I believe this is the first mounting I have seen which was at all successful - copulation probably did not take place unless very briefly. A raven alighted 50±' from & 10±' above the ♂ - no reaction. Raven later alighted on tip of ♂'s branch - ♂ seemed unconcerned, tho head down, for 10± seconds, then suddenly raised wings (possibly balancing movement) & raven flew. 1:42, another raven on center stub of ♂'s tree - 6±' from ♂ & at same level, but no reaction apparent from adult. 1:45, ♂ ruffled up wings, then gave a half stretch with left

Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Whiteacre Pk., Calif.

wing. 30± sec. later ♂ turned about, facing seen. A raven perched 3±' toward trunk from adult - no reaction (adult preened) until raven flew off, then adult's wings flew up (balancing). Adult turned around again (facing ♀) & both adults were in air about 1:48. They circled over head of a steep canyon near their perch until at Rim level. One had feet down. One showed "crop bulge". One with feet down held them close together. This one also ejected in air - a watery substance. Earlier the ♀ ejected over edge of cliff, the ejecement going ~~down~~ straight down in a stream. The two circled & rose over me to 1500±' above me, then flew glided to NW toward San Rafael Pk. area. (gone at 1:55). Breeze very light still. In calm air dihedral seems greater than in wind, & more primaries bent up (only 3± when flew gliding in wind). A duck hawk soared within 50 ft. of the condors several times without attacking - condors showed no reaction. Both adults seemed to have all flight feathers. About 2:30 left for Hopper Basin. Saw 2 over W. Rim heading S± about 2:45. At 3:30 reached road. ~~Too~~ Air dead calm but cool. 3:45, one adult circled & rose to about 4000' level above Arundell Cliffs, then glided NW until over me, then circled & rose over W. Rim, then glided S± just W. of

ford

2879

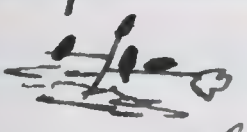
Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Rim + 1000± ' above it. This bird circled 5± minutes above Parking Knoll area, then glided across canyon until 1000± ' over E. Rim, then slowly spiraled down in Big Cove vicinity (4:04). About 3:50 saw a second adult over W. Rim near me - it headed into Hopper Basin when at 500± ' alt. Yet another seen gliding toward Big Cove area from E. at about 4 p.m. The one which took the long trip (adult) had no apparent flight feather deficiencies. Soaring made a light singing sound. No flaps were seen, but several dips + half dips. Some turns in circling were made without one wing tip dipping first, + some with (usual). Leading edge of wing very straight in soaring - no nuckle visible at wrist. The air is apparently good for soaring though no air motion is apparent on Hopper Rim + there is a heavy gray haze at about 3500 ft. level. Drove toward Old Cabin until I got a good view of Big Cove - saw at least ~~10~~ 12 there at 4:25. One sunned, back to sun. None at pool. 3 in top branches of Roost Tree. From Old Cabin at 4:33 counted 22 condors at Big Cove area. 4± were within 10± ' of the pool atop the falls but did not seem to drink. Still much shifting between roosts but some (2 or 3) birds flattened out in roosting position (1 on a top branch of Roost Tree).

Gymnogyps californianus

February 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Usual number of bedding flaps in shifting perches is 5, often 4. 4:43 - 4 in top of Roost Tree  have been constant for 10+ minutes - the second on this branch lay flat, facing NW±, at 4:45. One landed in a small pothole containing another - the inmate flapped several times to keep balance, but both stayed in. 4:48, again 4 at pool, 4 at least 1 drinking. An imm. was flushed from 4 separate perches in rapid succession by an adult - adult landed & imm. took off to another perch, adult followed soon after imm. was airborne & landed beside imm.; imm. off again - and so on. Air calm; sun obscured by thick cirro stratus clouds. Secured from bird watching.

February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Cold & 6/10 alto stratus at 7:45; fair breeze from SW. At Big Cave I saw 12 perched condors - 8 on open ledges, 2 on top branches of Roost Tree, & 2 in potholes. None was seen atop cliff - I do not believe they roost atop the cliff; probably too unprotected. I drove up the road to E. of #1 roost cave, then left car at 8:30 & hiked down the tractor trail which led above North Point then down toward Big Cave. At 9:07, 13 condors soared from Big Cave area toward Arundell Cliffs, & began to circle & rise together. The first 10 birds came out together, about

Gymnogyps californianus

February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

100 yards apart, in column - the nest 3 1/4± mile behind. I was about 3/4 mile N. of Condor Cliffs at the time; breeze very light; temp. 44° F.; sky clear. The birds rose in a rough group, the lower 3 maintaining a separate bunch. The condor milling is not nearly as regular as that of turkey vultures - condors seem to be in groups of 2 or 3 within the larger group. One flew at another 4± times as if chasing; these "attacks" usually ended with both birds flapping 5-8 times. It is as though pursued bird climbs to get out of way - or when both lose balance, they must flap to regain it. A third attacked the pursuer 3± times in same manner but no apparent contact. 8 flaps was maximum seen; about 4/second. The bunch broke up and 8± milled above Rock Ridge while 2 or + headed N. and others circled over Old Cabin area. I was in open, but none seemed to notice me. Two adults returned toward Big Cave, flew gliding & giving an occasional altitude-losing dip, feet down, & landed at 9:25 in a pothole 70±' from top of a parapet-like prominence 300± yds. N. of Big Cave. The other condors were all out of sight by about 9:20 - rising time about 9:10 today. One of the adults squatted flat in pothole

Gymnogyps californianus

February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, O.T.K.

mouth (facing in) after 3± minutes, while other entered hole but turned so head protruded  - they were still there at 9:40. Retrogressing - 21 condors were seen at once in the air about 9:15. I continued down the trail passing about 200 yds. from and 100±' below the adult pair - the sitter stood & both seemed to watch me, one with head down  most of the time. The pair left about 10:07 when I was well past them. At 10:00 I saw 3 condors in air over North Slope, this same pair, & 4 (2 ad., 2 imm.) still at Whitewash Ledge. One youngster soared (flap glided) down condor canyon when I was 300± yds. away, then an adult 1± min. later, then other adult, & 5± min. later the last youngster. The adult pair & last 2 on Ledge left while I was seated about 200 yds. from Big Cave. Last youngster gave 8 successive flaps in flap gliding. I hiked to end of tractor trail - 100±' from condor creek - then crossed creek & climbed trail through the brush to foot of Condor Cliff, then went W. at cliff foot to Wake's nest (arrived 10:45). Collected 30± bones, tooth fragments, & seashells (!) from inside the cave & for 20±' below cave mouth. The shells & all but 1 or 2 small mammal bones were outside. There were several film & flash globe wrappers, a film spool, broken flash globes, & 2 cigarette butts

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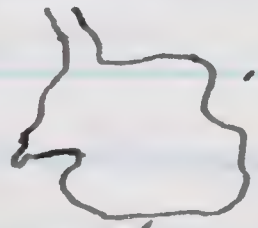
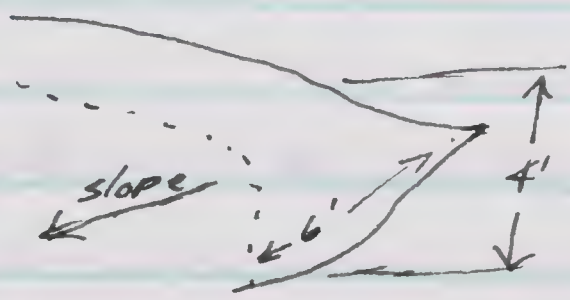
February 13 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

also near the entrance - anyone skirting the cliff base would be suspicious. A few old condor feathers outside too. No condors seemed interested in my presence though a pair of duck hawks "eked" loudly & dove near me repeatedly. The cave faces toward Pyramid LO & Hopper Mtn. & Arundell Cliffs, almost directly over (150±' above top) the dead Ps. in lower part of Condor Canyon. Entrance large & irregular - shaped about  Maximum width about 12' & height 10'. → E

From entrance the cave slopes up at about a 20° angle to a flat floor in the rear. This flat - where egg was I believe - comes to a point at the rear & the plan view appears about this:



The floor was covered with 2-4" of fine dust, liberally strewn with down, acorns & hazel(?) nuts, rock fragments, & occasional bones. The ceiling of this flat ~~pla~~ part averaged about 2'-20" about minimum. The rear 6'x4' triangle seemed by far the most used tho bones were found in the trough all the way down to cave mouth. There was no evidence of condors having visited the cave this year. Excrement (dark) was up to

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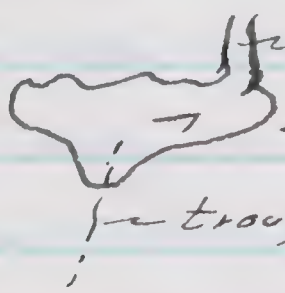
February ~~14~~ 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon Calif.

18" or 20" high on some walls. But this cave shows not as much excrement or as many bones as some others - the whitewash one for instance - so may have had a chick only once in recent years. A cross section about halfway in from entrance to rear (30' total) appears about:



Light breezes only; sky clear. I collected bone fragments for specimens & departed cave at 11:30. Had occasionally seen 1 to 3 condors over Hopper Basin while at cave. Rear of this cave quite dark so that I had great difficulty in searching for bones. The point at W. side of cave mouth was only one with even moderate whitewash - no thick chalky deposits here. Investigated below Whitewash Ledge & Condor Falls then until 12:30 - no condors seen near. I found 20± primaries & secondaries, & below Whitewash Ledge, where excrement thick, I found a hair ball (deer it appeared) such as work reported; perhaps a condor pellet. Then went down Condor Canyon & visited #9 nest below lower falls in Condor Canyon. Apparently it had not been used since 1941 although one point at mouth was well whitewashed (ravens?).

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February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Inside the cave there was no condor smell nor fresh whitewash. About 10' from rear of cave a 5 foot long & 1 ft. thick rock slab had fallen from the overhead & partially blocked the opening though not critically (still plenty of room for condor to pass. Found a few bones & shell (clam type) fragments inside cave & below mouth - very few; I probably collected them before in 1941. A stack of flat rocks I used for a camera rest in the cave was unhitched & untouched. This cave is about 40' long. The entrance is visible from rear end. Opens toward the tops of some alders 100± ft. away & a grassy-oaky bank 100±' farther - apparently a poor takeoff spot as at most can only drop about 20' without hitting alder tops & must fly only down canyon or turn within 50 yds. of leaving entrance. The egg location was about 8' long & covered with 3± " of fine silt. Many large acorns in this one (50±). The silt strip was about 16" wide & the ceiling about 3 ft. above:  X-sect egg locale. About ~~10'~~ 8' out from the rear, a gentle slope (10±°) starts & leads 10±' to a jumble of broken sandstone fragments of good size (1-2' across). The entrance to the cave is a slanting cleft  about 8' high. There is a bee nest about

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February 13, 1996 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

15' outside the entrance, apparently, & just above it. A 5±' sprig of Yerba Santa grows down from top of entrance. This cave is 200±' down canyon from the lowest cascade of Condor Falls and faces about NW. It is about 100' above creek bed - a steep climb but not difficult as slope is shrubby. Left this nest cave & went up Condor Creek. At about 2:15 saw 4 condors over North Slope apparently heading for Big Cave. At 2:40 saw 4 circling over North Slope. At 3pm saw 8 at Big Cave - 2 were imm.; one imm. swooped up to a top branch of Roost Tree. Others were on Whitewash Ledge. 3:10, one adult ~~imm.~~ was chased by duck hawk - the whistle of wings brought my attention to it - no contact but about 2' from it. The condor landed immediately on whitewash ledge. By 3:15, 10 condors & 11 by 3:20. 4 at best were imm. Two sunned backs briefly with wings outspread. Adult atop Roost Tree facing NW preening; imm. 2±' lower + 6±' away facing adult, & quiet. I was setting 200± yds. NW of Big Cave. 3:23, 2 imm. + one adult sunning backs. One adult ~~appeared~~ appeared to have the outer right secondary missing. 3:26, now 14 condors (6 imm.) at Big Cave. One imm. had sooty head but pinkish neck with red patch in front of neck. 3:28 - now 16; 2 on Roost Tree, 2 atop cliff near Big Cave, rest on

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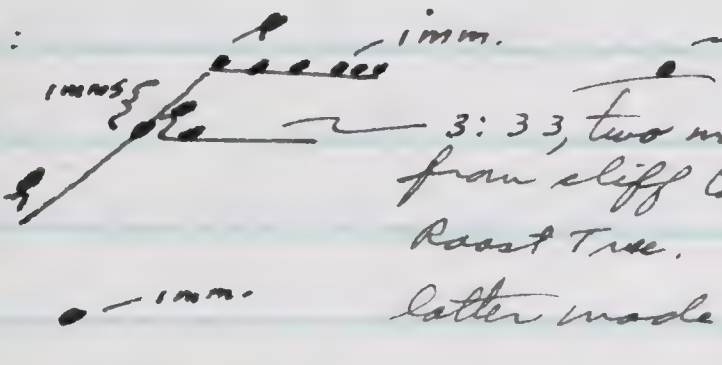
February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

open ledges. 3:30, 2 more adults spiraled down & landed about 1 minute apart. Whitewash Ledge now appears:



sound of snappy quality. Correction -8 imm.; one with adult atop cliff - the imm. flapped lightly while facing adult as if asking for food. ~~Lone adult~~ Two adults took off & glided down the canyon at 3:32±. Within 3 minutes, all but 6 (4 of these were imm.) were off & circling over me. They gradually rose, broke into several groups, & rejoined over Arundell Ridge where I counted 18 in air & 6 on cliff (24 total!). I hiked fast up North Slope to avoid further disturbance of the birds. At 3:40 one alighted on Whitewash Ledge. About 3:45 saw one atop a Ps. on Arundell Ridge. 4:00 - 16 in one branch over Pyramid Canyon - only 8 by 4:05. There was a fair breeze up the canyon at 4:05; temp. 50°F.; sky clear. I continued up the slope. 10 condors continued to mill together here & there - occasionally 200 ± 100' above me. At 4:25 they were over Pyramid Canyon. At 4:30 I could spot none. Breeze light. Reached car at 5 p.m. & drove to Fillmore.

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February 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At 5:30 saw at least 16 at Big Cave, perched, so most of the group probably returned there. Big Cave Falls was not running over the edge - water low. Condor Falls had clear water - running slowly. All water quite low for this time of year. Sid Peyton says that Dr. Evermann (sp.?) saw condors "mating" in ~~Pine~~ Sespe Canyon (some years ago). He said they "acted like a turkey". Sid has some fragments of large clam shells - like Pismo clams - which were taken from Sespe condor nests. He said Dave Strotheam - the man who told Sid he saw 45 condors on Torrey a few weeks ago - told him he had seen condors on the channel islands. Sid also said that his brother in law ~~h~~ told him he had seen 2 (or +) condors on S. side of San Cayetano near Lodi Creek today (from the valley).

February 15, 1946 Ojai, Calif.

At Ojai Ranger Station talked with Ranger Lyda & Phil Cook. Both were very friendly & cooperative. Lyda remembered me from former meetings. He said he saw 11 condors over Bald Mtn. (near Dale King Ranch) about a year ago, apparently at a carcass. He had heard from a friend that several years ago a fresh ~~cow~~ calf had been hung under a tree at Hurricane Deck & left - when the men returned, the calf had

ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 13, 1946 ~~Santa Bart~~ Ojai, Calif

been eaten, supposedly by condors. Phil Cook said he had seen condors at some red cliffs about halfway between S. Fork Guard Station & the schoolhouse in Sisquoc Canyon & thought they may nest there. He had also seen them ~~in~~ at Mission Pine & had watched them stretch in the morning. His impression was that they were very dopey in the morning as they seemed undisturbed even when a man rode below them. Cook said also he had seen them on every occasion of visiting Topatapa Lookout. Nordhoff Pk. reported them frequently too, he said. Re use of the Hopper Basin area by cattle - the Crumdells have released their rights there so that Gene Percy gets them. The oil company has apparently died - it was Continental Exploration Co., Room 1010 - 608 S. Hill St., Los Angeles. Van Winkle ~~how~~ was last man ~~they~~ the F.S. dealt with. Gene Percy had told me the road in Hopper Basin was done in 35 days with a bulldozer and maintainer - in the spring. Lyda & Cook offered any help they could give & were both very interested in my work & asked many questions. The forest will be closed after late June this year, they believed. Former closure at Hopper ~~Cam Bas~~ Rim amounted only to posting a sign

Mrs. Bayce

mule - bear + cards - last fall.

Caston - St. Cany. - coal mine.

Sant. - Cleveland Co.

Sig. - 1 or 2, 3± tupis

June 1, 1945 - 13, dead calf in ditch - 7 or 8 mi

N of Chalan - Sam McM., L. Stev., Rect.

Eb, - Cameras - tried steer, no luck - oct.

7 mi. ~~N of McKinney~~ Kam Co. ~~Sk~~ McM. br. in law found by wat. tr.

F and F 23 May '45. ~~Dead 2 or 3 wk. Hoof~~

~~shel. at sta. B. Bus.~~ ~~Left~~ tif + tarsus eaten away

it ~~found~~ as ~~by~~ disease. Buck Chester - 6 or 7 black hd.

Ray Latham - L. St. br. in law. - Peach tr. Cany - excavated

Lat. - egg from old m - montezuma - 50± yrs ago

Rawson nest - McM. knows where; with Truendell + Dawson; clustered rocks.

1896 - Bag S - stuffed 5th call.

4 mow - 1926 one.

Bob mar 6 60# - Radcliff. store

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 15, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

on the gate at Pete Legan's. Lyle said the pamphlet on condors put out by CS Robinson had stimulated the interest of lookouts greatly, & that they ~~shot~~ still had some of the reporting forms formerly used. At Santa Barbara talked to Al Nolden and Supervisor Nash-Baulden. N.-B. said that last year there was a young condor near Big Pine LO. The lookout, Mrs. Boyce, saw the adult feed the youngster near the lookout house. N.B saw the bird at the lookout & said he took some pictures of it tho not good. They figured the nest was between the lookout & the crest of the road. A mule was killed in the vicinity for the purpose of getting condor pictures. N-B said the condors & bears cleaned it - even the shoes were gone - tho he did not see the condors eat it or get any pictures. This mule was laid out in late fall. N-B said that Caston had sent him a report of condors being seen in Stone Canyon near the coal mine (near San Miguel). He also said there were occasional reports from hunting on the Cleveland NF. All the lookouts have not been manned the last few war years, N-B said. He said he had only seen 1 or 2 birds on 3 (?) trips to the Sisquoc Sanctuary. Charlie Tant, lion hunter, now stays at Los Cruces or with Doc Webber at Weber's ranch. Nash Baulden pooh poohed the idea that too many people were getting into Nopper Canyon

Gymnogyps californianus

February 15, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

and thought the summer closure was effective. He remembered me & called me Carl but wanted to do all the talking and did not offer anything concrete in the way of help. Nalder too was quite friendly & remembered me. Went to S.B. Nat. Hist. Museum and talked with EZ Rett, Waldo -, & Coggeshall. The museum got one condor specimen which was found 23 May 1945 7 miles NW of Mc Kittrick, Kern Co., by Dan Mc Millan's brother in law. The bird was by a watering trough. Apparently it had been dead 2 or 3 weeks. The SB Museum has the skeleton (complete) & all feathers. The left tibia & fibula have holes in them as if some disease had eaten away the bones - holes up to 1/2± " at joint. On June 1, 1945, Rett, Larry Stevens, & Dan ("Mike") Mc Millan were at Sharon when "Buck" Chester told them he had seen 15 condors feeding on a dead calf near Cholame. Buck said 6 or 7 had black heads. The group went to the spot 7 or 8 miles N. of Cholame & saw 13 condors on the ground. The birds flushed at some distance (last 100 yds.) when they drove upwind toward the carcass in a pickup truck. Eben Mc Millan is a camera bug - he put out a steer in about October to try & get condor pictures from a blind, but had no luck. The Mc Millan boys ~~are~~ liked to climb when they were younger & used to go

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 16, 1896 Santa Barbara, Calif.

with Dawson & Truesdale. They know where the Dawson nest was located (Rett thinks in Cuyamaca region. Ike is best bird info man, Rett said. Eben is manager of a ranch next to Ike's. On the June 1 incident - after flushed, birds rose fast but not flapping. Two returned & one landed; Rett tried to sneak up on one but only got to within ~~100 yds~~ about 100 yds. before this one took off. From the ~~of~~ Chollame - Parkfield road, only 1 bird was visible (lookout?) and the others were in the ditch where occasional wings were seen flapping. Many ravens & turkey vultures also at carcass - ravens returned. all three birds together at carcass. birds departed S. after circling. Rett also told me that Larry Stevens had a condor egg he bought for $25 from an old collector who lives at Montecito. Stevens works at Packard garage in Santa Barbara. This old collector (name?) had taken other eggs too, 50± years ago. Rett told me also that Ray Latham, Larry Stevens brother in law who lives in Peachtree Canyon, had come to the museum wanting to know who was shooting the condors when the two were found dead in Peachtree Canyon. One is mounted at the museum and the other at the Forest Service office in Santa Barbara (Rock Boulden would not give the museum the birds unless one mounted one was given to the F. S.).

Gymnogyps californianus

February 15, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

Another museum bird was apparently from the Big Sur district; it was stuffed with rags & SF papers of 1896 date - this bird remounted by Rett. Another was shot in 1926 by an old ~~Spaniard~~ Mexican (in former notes). There are 4 specimens (including the last year's pickup) at the museum.

February 16, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

Talked with Larry Stevens, egg collector, at Pode-and garage (mechanic there). He said he had seen or heard of no condors in last few years except the 13 he saw with Rett & the Peachtree Canyon birds. The latter, he said, the old timers in Peachtree Canyon told him had been there for years, roosted in the head of the canyon, & nested there. I rather think this a roosting overflow from Big Pine Mtn. area. Stevens says Ellen McMillan might know more about condors than Dan but that he was hard to talk to. These men are ghast that squirrel poisoning will ~~be~~ cause the ~~eg~~ eagles & falcons to move out of that country - they would rather have the squirrels & eagles than neither. Stevens thinks there are as many or more ~~of~~ condors now than 20 years ago. He could not recall the name of the old timer who sold him a condor egg for $25 - but

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February 16, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

the old timer had taken 10 eggs he had told Stevens, & once found two young in a nest. Drove to Paso Robles & thence to Shandon. about 10 miles E. from Paso Robles the cattle country starts - low rolling hills & occasional flat valleys. At Shandon got directions from Bob Marshall at Gen'l Merch. Store (a friend of E Z Ratts) as to location of Jan McMillan's place. Met William F Douglas, F & G trapper, at Shandon. My aunt Caroline had taught at some school in Berkeley as his wife. Douglas seemed quite intelligent & a reliable observer. He said he saw 21 condors at Montgomery Potreros last November (will send me exact date & time later). A few days ago he had heard of two being seen in the Shandon area. At present he was trapping the Camatte & San Juan regions for coyotes. He had been stationed at Lompoc for 9± months but had seen no condors there - old timers had told him condors used to come to Francamore (sp.?) mtn. there but that none had been seen for years. Douglas had also trapped in the Juncal Dam area without seeing any condors, but saw them soon after moving to the N. side of Big Pine ridge (S.B. Potreros area). Went to

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 16, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

Ian McMillan place in Gillis Canyon near Shandon + met McMillan & wife. McMillan said Truesdell had told him 5 eggs were taken from the Dawson nest - the last of these in 1920 by Stuart. One was at MCZ, one at Tocoma High School, one was in possession of a man named Moore in Texas - as McM. remembered. Ian also said condors sometimes roosted in the rocks near McKittrick (where dead ~~ar~~ found last year). He was interested in taking Truesdell on a trip + finding the location of the condor nest - McM. believed this spot was probably the farthest north breeding place now. He also believed condors had increased in the last 20 years. He had read many ornithological articles including Harris' one on condor history + seemed very intelligent + accurate in his observations. Re eagles - he ~~thought~~ that where there ~~these~~ were squirrels there were eagles, and that poisoning squirrels caused the eagles to leave the area. About the 13 seen 1 June 1945 - the birds took off upwind. Were flushed about 12:45. Buck Chester had ridden right up on them previously ~~that~~ day. This was on Chalome-Parkfield road just above county line - this area was ~~a~~ the usual one for condors. That is where Hal Johnson saw 22 (see Condor mag) last (?) yr.

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 16, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

Ian said Buck reported having seen 14, 5 of which were imm. Also talked with Elden McMillan who seemed very careful in his data. Both had seen a single condor (feeding on sheep) on San Juan Ranch E. of Shandon several times last year. They said it departed toward McCheney Mtn. without much altitude, so they figured it was a nesting adult. Condors seemed never to be seen west of here (San Juan ridge). ~~but only E.~~ In Oct. of 1945, Elden said he saw 17 once & 19 once. One bird now at Fresno State College (from water tank) came from near here. Ian said he had seen condors roost this side of McKittrick on the old Temblor Ranch. Re the Truesdell nests - Ian said there were 4 sites at Beartrap Rocks on McCheney Mtn. He had seen a golden eagle chase a condor at times. One of the nests was in the open so that sunlight fell on the egg. One was a hole so small the bird had to squeeze to get wings in. Truesdell said they never seemed to use the same hole twice. One pair (De Troccy nest) was in the San Carpos. Truesdell said that once every 4 or 5 years one pair seemed to go off & nest there. Of the Truesdell eggs, 5 were taken, 1 hatched, 1 raised,

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 16, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

1 broken, & 1 lost - this lost; Truesdell went for a camera & egg was gone upon his return. Truesdell's second egg was rejected by Thayer as a phony - it was cream color while first was white. Chen used to ride the Mc Cheney Mtn. area & see a pair roost in a pine tree (Beartrap area). About 11 years ago Eb saw 18 or 20 roosting in some short oaks above Avenales ranch house (Ferry (?) Ridge), at daylight (dear carcass near). Two were trapped there the same year - one died & was left; the other released & flew down canyon without gaining any altitude. Eb knows of 4 dead condors in the last 10 yrs. - each was discovered only because one of the few men who pay attention to such things was nearby. The one found near Mc Kittrick had been seen many times by Dan's brother in law before he realized it was a condor. The men who know condors when they see them & pay attention to them are far between. Buck Chester & Allie Lewis are good observers. Buck rides the Stone Canyon country & clear over to Coalinga so should be able to give any dope on the birds there. The McMillans think Stone Canyon just a feeding place, but Castle Mtn. is a possible roost. The McMillans

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 16, 1946 Shandon, Calif.

have taken Truesdell out collecting recently - they would like to take him to the condor nest area & get the location of the nests. The best way to get into Beartrap is from a cabin in ~~on~~ Martinez Canyon reached by road up Pilatus ~~Creek~~ Canyon. He thinks condors as numerous there as they ever were. About 12 is most he ever saw in that region. The bird found dead last year was at a spring between Salt & Temblor Creek about 10 miles NW of McKittrick.

February 17, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

Went on a trip with Jan & Ellen McMillan to Cholame, Parkfield, Table Mtn., & back to Jan's place. Frosty in morning; fair wind later, and cirro stratus clouds. Visited the spot at Monterey Co. line on Cholame-Parkfield road where 13 seen last June 1. The carcass had been in a 4± ' deep ditch about 1/4 mile ~~to~~ E. of the nearer (W.) foo hills & within sight of Cholame Ranch (houses). The 22 that Hal Johnson reported were on the opposite (E.) side of the road at about same location. Saw 2 or 3 carcasses in the general area during the day but no condors. The carcass had been on a flat, close cropped, treeless & brushless plain which was apparently the place where condors were most often seen in this area. Proceeded

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 17, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

to Back Chesters place. Buck could recall having seen none north of the aforementioned flats. When questioned about Stone Canyon area, Buck recalled seeing ~~two~~ some 17 or 18 years ago near Chorley (sp.?) canyon before knew them well. Don McMillan & wife saw 16 at a water trough above Turkey Flat near Kings-Fresno-Monterey Co. ~~corner~~ junction. Later we visited this spot - it was fairly smooth and grassy of 15±% slope to W. & not near any trees. Some were perched on the trough, Don said. He had seen 3 the day before in same general area. This instance occurred on August 3, 1945. Don McMillan never saw a condor till he was 22, he said, so he believed they had increased in last 20 years. His wife's father was supposed to have shot one near Cayucos about 60 years ago. Bob [Claude?] Brown (of Dowan? - now in Panama - had taken an egg in the Sespinoe, Ian said & had watched condors much. Bob had seen condors bathe in a rock tub at Beartrap Rocks too, McM. said. Ian believed that perhaps condors roosted on the Coalinga side of Castle Mtn. in the fall. Truesdell ~~so thought~~ was said to have thought that condors may roost in the Piniosa area near Castle Mtn. We ~~then~~ visited Henry Ludecke, old time rancher, who lived near Parkfield

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 17, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

within sight of Mustang Peak & who formerly lived near Shandon. He seemed reliable but did not spend much time looking at birds. He said he saw 5 about 10 years ago going W. near his place - as if toward "the coal mine" (Stone Canyon) or the Peninsula. He said had it that one was trapped near Mustang Pk. 30 or 40 years ago, Henry said. He knew condors by the "ole box wings" and the white under the wings, he said. Visited Allie Lewis, another old timer who rides the Table Mtn. - Castlemtn. area. He said he had seen condors often - that they usually came in spring & left in the fall. One had stayed till a couple of months ago, he said. They were usually around watering troughs - perhaps catching frogs, he thought. He offered to try to trap one with a steel trap set around water troughs - if we wanted it. Allie said the condors had appeared "5 or 6 years ago". He said the Pinina area was rough & bluffy - it could be seen from the Coalinga side and was best approached from near Avenal Ranch. Allie told us of old timer Walt Merrill (about 80) who lives near Avenal Ranch. Walt had old Allie of seeing condors when he was a boy but then not till 5 or 6 years ago.

Gymnogyps californianus

February 17, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

Additional re "Kelly" Truesdell eggs - one could not be reached by rope so was left to hatch, one was hatched when went to collect, one was broken when old bird left nest + kicked it out (flushed). Dan emphasized that condors were not seen west of Red Hills - the reports last year spread from between Chalame & Parkfield down Bitterwater Valley area to near Mt Kettrick. He knew of none being seen near Avenal - Kettleman Hills area. Dan thought air currents a flight routes may explain why condors were not seen W. of Red Hills. One was seen ~~several times in July & August 1945~~ in June 1945 near Eben's place (about 10 mi. S. of Kings-Kern-SLO Co. junction) by Eb. & ~~Abe~~. ~~They~~ The bird they believe nested near Mt Cheaney Mtn. Eben thought one egg was collected by someone other than Truesdell in the Mt Cheaney region (Brown?). was seen several times in July & August near Paso Ortega. Dan told me that Bert DeTracy (sp?) who lives near Bee Rock used to collect for H R Taylor. He collected one egg in the San Carpojo in 1900. Truesdell thinks there are condors there only when one pair nests there, Dan said. Truesdell said that it paid the collector to drop everything else & concentrate on condor eggs, according to Dan. Truesdale would never join the Cooper Club because of a tiff

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

with Lee Chambers. Chambers acted somewhat in the capacity of an "egg broker". He rejected one egg of Truesdale's because it was cream colored. Truesdale then sent it to Thayer who sent it to Chambers for verification & Chambers again pronounced it bogus. The trip to the condor nest made by Dawson was at Truesdale's invitation in order to prove the validity of the eggs supposedly some shell fragments were found which proved it. Carl Truesselmen, Dan's brother in law, has a picture of condors roosting in rocks near McKittrick, & might have another picture showing 17 condors. These were taken in last 4 yrs. Near Paso Ortega is where Dan built a blind & tried to ~~fo~~ photograph a feeding condor. The blind was covered with an old hide & set up near a carcass. Not even Ravens came. Claude Braun took an egg in Beartrap Country. He was a good observer & quite a Shandon character (dug a cave in a cliff near Shandon & lived in there, for instance). Now about 60, Braun is a "beachcomber" in Panama. Dan said he will have Dan McMillan write Claude & ask for a report of his experiences with condors. McMillan's father came in Shandon country in 1884 & settled in McMillan canyon. He hunted a lot in surrounding country but according to Dan saw no condors. So Dan thinks condors more plentiful now than ~~since for~~ since 1900 or earlier.

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Gymnogyps californianus

February 18, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

Both McMillans (Ian + Eben) went on trips with Truesdale when boys, including to the condor nesting area. Truesdale carried a ~~bow~~ revolver to shoot + flush the nesting birds. He said the condors were often hard to flush - several shots might be fired and the adult would only put "her" head out and look around. Brown had camped near the Beartrap condor country too. Ian's father often referred to a man named Wilcox in speaking of natural history matters. Truesdale might know more of him. Ian says Truesdale says one egg he took was at Tacoma High School + was from the Chester Bowles collection. From 1905 to 1920 eggs were collected at Beartrap - possibly 10 total nestings but not over one per year, Ian said. Stuart got the last egg in 1920 - he may still be in Philadelphia. As to food - Ian says that most carcasses from stock in the condor range are probably from the big holdings such as Chalame Ranch, Twisselmans, Tejon Ranch, etc. for they use lots of submarginal land + rely on low operating cost to make money - labor + upkeep are at a minimum; sick animals are not coddled back to health. In the old days the poorer land was not used + there was no such thing as supplemental feeding, + when drought came the cattle had to be moved out or die.

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February 18, 1946 Nr Shandon, Calif.

In 1877 there was a big draught clear to the coast which killed many cattle. Ranches were restocked by the increase in the residue in those days, so there would be great condor food reduction for some time. Instances like this might account for the condors on Columbia River (Lewis & Clarke). Met Howard Iversen on the road. Iversen Ranch is in Holland Canyon (E. of San Juan River). He seemed quite interested in condors & said he knew them "by the white" and by the fact that he knew buzzards and eagles. Iversen said he saw 1 about 3 weeks ago on a carcass which had rear end eaten out; this was about 11 a.m. he thought. Again he saw 15 ± at an earlier date. Both these occurrences were near the head of Holland Canyon. He also said he had seen them often on Ad Grant's place. Grant furnished lots of condor food, Ian said. Grant has both sheep & cattle & lets carcasses lie. He is also a condor enemy - thinks they ~~eat~~ kill stock. Met the Shandon High School agriculture teacher (Duncan?) who is quite interested in birds but has never seen a condor. Requested him to let Ian know if any condors were reported & record date & number too - this same request made of all the people I met with Ian. The area from north Carrizo Plains up to Castle Mtn. will be well cover-

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February 18, 1946 Nr. Shandon, Calif.

ed by by interested men - relatives & friends of Dan - and Dan will let me know when condors appear again in the vicinity. ~~About Annette~~ About 2 miles SW of Antelope Valley - Ernest Still found one in a water trough near there where he used to live; this specimen is supposed to be at Fresno now (taken years ago). Dan's nephew - named Hopper - said he saw 7 once flying near Annette about 1936, & once saw 1 or 2 east of Avenales Ranch house when deer hunting there. Iversen's father has the squirrel poisoning job near Shandon - they have started at Iversen's & will start at Dan's place in a few days - Dan thinks using "1080". From atop the Red Hills Dan pointed out the areas where there were half a dozen condor occurrences last year. Annette L O might be a good place to condor watch from. There were included from Twisselman Ranch to ~~the~~ Castle Mtn. Dan said he never saw condors on the "San Juan side" or W. of San Juan River. Eben said he never saw condors W. of about 25 miles E. of Paso Robles (near Cholame).

February 25, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

Visited Buford Fox, Asst. Agricultural Commissioner, & gave him some condor photos. He was very friendly. He said the squirrel poisoning had not started yet and that they were having trouble getting grain - trying to get

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February 25, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

barley now, oats being unavailable. He had seen or heard of no condors since my visit of about 7 Feb. 2. He reiterated his belief that condors feeding around Bakersfield (on E. side) roosted near Baker Grade near Bena. The Baker Grade road goes up Walker Creek & one can travel it to Walker Basin.

February 26, 1946 Los Angeles, Calif.

At Cooper Club meeting in L. A. talked with* ? (well known to Pemberton & Sid Peyton) who said he knew two condors had been seen in the Santa Monica Mtns. last fall near the Los Angeles Co. line, & he thought he knew where they might nest. He offered to go to the place with me this spring. Another well known member said he had taken a trip up the ~~to~~ Little Sespe road this year and had seen some condors high overhead. A woman said she had seen one close to the road near Sulphur Mtn. (nr. Ojai) this year. Quite a number of the members remembered me well ~~tho~~ they had not seen me for nearly 5 years. *Sid Peyton thinks this was Sid Bloxford (sp.?) from my description of him.

Ford

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March 2, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Drove to Hopper Rim and was accosted in Pyramid L O at 4:30 p.m. Sky 2/10 alto-cumulus, 64°F, fair westerly breeze. Saw no condors on way up Pole Canyon tho I stopped several times and surveyed the bluffs and skyline. Met Pete Logan for the first time since my return. He said coyotes were very thick & had killed his goats - 40 all told. He once saw a group of 5 and Alan Arundell, ~~to~~ Pete said, told him of seeing 7. I discovered no roosting or other condor activity except at Big Cave area and one bird in a pothole on East ~~cliffs~~ Cliffs (200± above Hopper Creek). This latter seemed to be an advanced immature and was still as before at 5:15 p.m. Maximum condor count was 12. Between 4:30 and 5 there were up to 5 condors at once atop Big Cave tho I could see no water there. 3± of these were on nodules 100± back from the cliff brink - water there? Saw one adult "chase" another, both swooping low in front of Big Cave, then rising sharply, flapping. One alighted atop cliff & the other continued soaring. ~~2±~~ Saw one adult land in a small pothole already containing an

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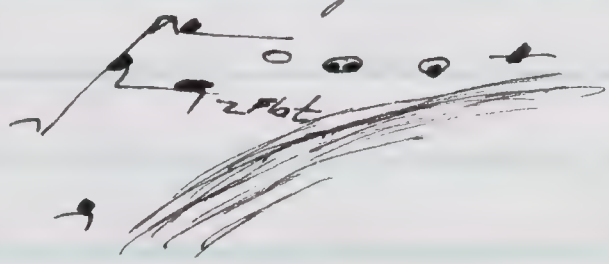
~~February~~ March 2, 1976 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

adult, & one quickly left. At 5:25 counted 12 at Big Cave alone & 13th on East Cliffs as before. Of the 12, 2 at pool area atop Big Cave & 2 others (it appeared like a youngster with wings flapping "begging" to be fed) were atop cliff over the cave. Before 5 p.m. 2± on ledges or in pothole seemed perched flat as if settled for the night but standing later. At 5:30 at least 3 in potholes near Big Cave; only 1 visible atop cliff. One ~~sque~~ perched flat on Whitewash Ledge. As the number of condors in Hopper Basin fluctuates as, even in winter, the area may not be absolutely essential to condor survival. 5:35, one shifted from cliff top to Whitewash Ledge - the ~~bigde~~ ledge appeared thus:



Three atop Roost

Tree, well separated,

thus:  5:45, the birds still appeared as diagrammed except the flattened one now gone from the ledge. None visible on cliff tops - I can't recall ever having seen any atop cliffs late in the evening; apparently cliff tops are undesirable roosts. "Sunning" posture is apparently infrequent ~~before going to roost~~ in late afternoon and evening.

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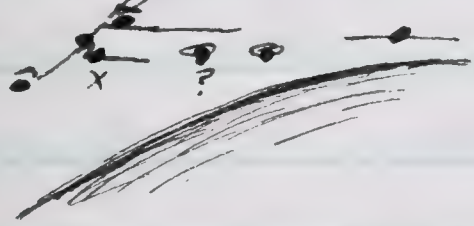
March 2, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

5:53, two flapped 5± across Big Cave & alighted in separate potholes on the N± facing cliff. The lowest visible perched (on cliff below Whitewash Ledge) also flew across to a pothole near these two. 5:55 – sunset 10± min. ago. I saw one flapping condor alight on Whitewash Ledge. Apparently I arrived at the Rim after "roosting time" today as I have seen no condors above the horizon. 6:01 – Whitewash Ledge appeared:



. 6:03, still 3 atop Roost Tree, about as last diagrammed. The last bird to alight on Whitewash Ledge (marked X) flapped off. Lowest bird on Whitewash Ledge perched flat as if set for the night. Those on Roost Tree as before. Air very still now & cool (56°F.). 6:10, ceased observation because of darkness.

March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At 7:15 a.m. left camp at Old Cabin and proceeded down Spring Canyon to visit Greta's nest cave. Sky clear, temp. 40°F., gusts of strong W. breeze. The old trail was virtually gone beyond Spring Canyon Meadow but I found enough of it to make

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

progress. At about 7:30 I saw what appeared to be 2 condors roosting in separate green Pseudotsuga on N. slope near Arundell Saddle. The lower one, 100± yds. downhill from the saddle, was about 20' from tree top on the bare part of a heavy horizontal branch. About 8:05 I saw this lower one ruffle up the wings, - the bird was then in sunshine - and at 8:15 it took off, glided toward East Canyon with 2 or 3 wing dips, circled 5± times, rising steeply sometimes and then losing altitude sharply & with a wing dip. A second condor circled below it after a few minutes, & both glided toward Big Cave. The ~~upper~~ other roosting condor - 50± yds. up the slope of Arundell Ridge from the first - I did not verify later. By 8:15 a steady strong westerly breeze - the condors soared & gained altitude with apparent ease. Rising over an E. slope with W. wind seems to indicate use of rising air currents. These two I suppose went to Big Cave to drink or join the gang. I was over 1000 yds. from the bird when it flew so probably didn't disturb it. At 9:30 I was below Arundell Cliffs, halfway up the ~~between~~ slope between creek & cliffs. I

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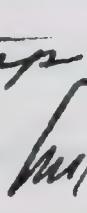
Gymnogyps californianus

March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

at least 9 condors then at Whitewash Ledge, at least 2 sunning backs. About 9:40 saw at least 5 on a flatish place below the ledge. An adult & youngster stood side by side at edge of a shadow, apparently pecking at the rock or plants. ~~Adu~~ These two wrestled with heads & necks a bit, then youngster slid sidewise 10± ' down the rock, wings flapping but did not take off. ~~1 to~~ 1 to 3 of the other birds (of the 5) were also imm. Three birds (adult & 2 imm) were still on this flat at 10:15 - the only condors visible in ~~the~~ Big Cave area then. About 9:30 I saw 2 adults soar together down Condor Canyon. One chased the other, both dove, then rose flapping. At 9:53 at least 4 were in air over Big Cave - "rising time" about 10 a.m. I judged. About 9:45 I saw 1 adult displaying at another for 3± minutes atop Big Cave. Wings of displayer were held  & head down near feet. The displayer paced back & forth for a few feet about 1 to 5' from displayee, sometimes apparently almost touching the latter. Displayee showed no reaction - just stood

Ford

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

as near as I could see. ~~about~~ One of the pair took off + the other remained (about 9:48). About 10 a.m. two adults alighted atop N. Arundell Cliffs about 400' E. of Cave Point. Both had ruffs down showing magenta spot at base of neck ventrally + light grey above this, then orange of head. One displayed at the other, head upside down and wings as before diagrammed. Displayer took very long steps it seemed in pacing back + forth. He (?) stopped + recommenced a few times. His (?) cheeks were puffed + crop bulged, showing magenta patch. She (?) had no bulge but same head coloring. Maximum reaction was that displayee nibbled head of displayer - I had 20× telescope on these birds about 1/4 mile away in sunshine. About 10:03 both stood quiet - I made some motions in putting on a sweater. Both adults soared directly across canyon + 70± ' above me. I was 500± ' W. of Greta's nest at this time. After a few turns, the displayee alighted atop a Pseudotsuga 75± yds. W. of Greta's nest + displayer - crop still bulging + a ragged patch in left secondaries - circled over me for 5± minutes - sometimes 1/4 mile away.

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March 3, 1946. Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At about 10:08 the two adults soared toward East Canyon together. During display, displayee too seemed to have big cheeks. Both seemed to have unwrinkled necks. After the display ruffs went up to heads - cool strong breeze still. About 1/4 mile W. of Greta's cave at 9:30 I found an old condor humerus (my no. 203), well weathered, with surface broken away at several spots near the tips. In flight, tail of adult showed considerable sawlen, only center feathers being flush with back maximum flaps counted - 7. . At 10:35, 2 imm. & 1 adult still on the flat ledge near foot of Whitewash Ledge - all quite inactive. The immatures just perched, back to sun, 10± ' apart, perhaps occasionally preening. No other condors visible. Sky 2/10 cumulus clouds moving 5±; breeze up the canyon (E±) at base of Arundell Cliffs. I went to top of Arundell Cliffs & then down to Greta's nest - ±2 nest cave. At 11:05, before reaching the cave, I saw an adult soaring 500±' overhead. In the cave I found an egg. The egg was pale blue, slightly more pointed at one end than the other, & more elongated than the one I photographed near Whiteacre Pk. in 1941. There was some dark

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

excrement on the egg. It lay about 4' inside the cave in good light (from NW) and was about 8" from the rear wall and 8" from SW wall. There was no depression in the floor litter - in fact, I collected 3± bones within 3± " of the egg, some touching it. The egg lay NE-SW, the NE end being larger & axis of cave being NW. I lifted the egg & felt it - it felt solid & heavy, but I could not candle it by daylight. I gathered about 15 bones & bone fragments hurriedly & left. At 11:25 I was going down the slope & flushed an adult from top of a green Pseudotsuga about 150 yds. NW of the nest cave. The taking off flaps gave a loud "woosh woosh" sound - earlier in the day I could hear no sound from flap gliding flaps of close adult. This adult had no missing large feathers & crop did not bulge. The rock trough at entrance to nest cave & two points at cave mouth had conspicuous fresh whitewash. I walked downstream and at 11:48 again saw an adult circling over the nest cave area (call it #11 nest, or Greta II). This nest cave is poor for any but closeup photography as sun does not shine ~~on~~ in and one can see the egg from no point nearer than

Cord

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

about 1/4 mile. Found a hobnail track in the canyon bottom where it had never been - one of Work's friends or a C & G S man? 12:38, from junction of Cuda Creek with main Hopper Creek, saw one 1500± ' overhead going toward Big Cave ~~area~~ area and at 12:40 ~~12:3~~ an adult 1000± ' overhead heading for East Canyon. Breeze still strong & soaring conditions apparently very good. Found two fresh droppings below Arundell Cliffs & one near #9 nest cave near Cuda Falls. Checked in this cave again as at 1:30 & saw an adult flap down the canyon there - apparently there had been no recent condor visitations. Bones & fragments in #2 nest indicates that it has been used at least once since my last visit (1941 probably) - but ~~the~~ whitewash & smell did not seem to indicate use last year. There were too adult feathers but no down in the cave. I was searching from near Cuda Falls when at 2:05 I saw an adult spiraling ~~go~~ down, just down, over East Cliffs. It landed - apparently in the brush - at about 2:06. I watched, & one left that spot at 2:17 and landed in a cave in a bluff on the ridge at S. side of mouth of East Canyon and about 5/8 of the way up from creek to top

Ford

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

knoll - 500± ' above creek bed. The cave appeared to face W. and had a large (~~6' tall~~ 5' high) mouth, & was apparently quite shallow. The adult was still in this cave - a small part of bird visible - at 2:32. Sky 4/10 cumulus, fair breeze, at 2:30. Retrogressing - at about 1:40 I saw 4, all adults apparently, circling, ~~flapping, lazy flap gliding~~ flapping often, ~~near~~ over SE corner of North Slope. One seemed to be chasing another while rising & flapping. Flaps were about 6/2½ seconds - 7 maximum number of consecutive flaps seen. Once the chased bird flapped faster than the normal tempo for 6± flaps - as if to elude pursuer. I went higher on North Slope to view White-wash Ledge & #11 nest. Counted 16 condors total - 7 in air - at Big Cave area at 2:50. The 7 next circled over foot of East Canyon and grew to 10, then over Grundell Ridge & grew to 13. 11 were on cliff - so at least 24 condors, & at least 5 of these immature. One imm. had orange head but sooty as if still covered with black small feathers. The cave where lone adult was perched proved to be well whitened at mouth and apparently a pothole roost. I have seen condors roosting there on previous occasions. The lunch episode

Ford

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March 3, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

I don't understand - perhaps a drink at a small pool or trickle? No ravens or turkey vultures there so food doubtful. At 3:10, 13 perched at Big Cave area, all separate & quiescent. Wind cold & about 20 mph from NW - sky 6/10 cumulus moving SE - I think the canyon will soon be fogged in. Went to Cave Point, arriving at 3:30. At 3:35 saw 19 condors at Big Cave area, 8 being immatures. One adult displayed at another standing very close & even put its foot on the head of the displayee. At 3:40 it commenced to snow lightly. I proceeded to North Point where at 4:10 I saw 7 condors in air near Big Cave - 3 about 1000' above it partially obscured by cloud bases. I reached road at North Creek at 5 pm & continued on to Old Cabin on road. Saw car tracks & footprints of a man & boy near head of Hopper Basin. Strong cold wind continued on into the night.

Observation from W. side later showed a rock point in that vicinity.

March 4, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Freezing during night. Wind died about 7:00 a.m. Sky clear. At 8 a.m. I was at Old Cabin. Saw at least 10 condors at Big Cave. One was atop cliff, running back, wings outspread. One in shaded potholes to W. of Cave. Others in sun on whitewash ledge. At 8:15 I left

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March 4, 1946 — Whiteacre ~~Hop~~ Pk., Calif.

the road and hiked to Whiteacre Peak. At 9:45 I was atop a cliff about 1/4 mile W. of the old nest cave on the Agua Blanca side of the peak. I saw no condors nor ~~anything~~ any egg in the egg compartment of the nest cave. Two duck hawks were hunting in the vicinity. By 10 a.m. there was a fair westerly breeze. Up to 4 turkey vultures constantly in sight in air. By 11:30 saw no condors so proceeded back up to Whiteacre Pk. At 12:00 saw one circling at 300±' altitude over E. side of the peak - it glided S. Continued on to road, reaching it at 1:10. Warm & calm at 2 p.m. I drove to ~~Pole Canyon~~ Parking Place. Saw no condors by 3:10 p.m. — air was very calm, & this fact may have delayed the return of the birds. Drove down Pole Canyon to Fillmore seeing no condors on the way.

March 8, 1946 — Hopper Ranch, Calif.

Arranged to get a 20 year old horse named "Star" from Gene Percy for use as condor bait. Percy reiterated his experience of once seeing several condors feeding on an old horse hide; when flushed the birds flew off but returned quickly. This was in cold weather & the condors acted very hungry on this occasion. Sid Peyton

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March 8, 1996 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

told me he thought that Frank Arundell took his first egg from the bluffs in Pole Canyon. Drove from Fillmore to Hopper Rim (head of Hopper Ranch trail) arriving at 5:30 p.m. Then hiked down to Percy Ranch. Saw no condors. Fair ~~wea~~ east wind at 3:30 & fairly warm.

March 9, 1996 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Obtained a large sorrel horse of 20 years age at Hopper Ranch from Gene Percy. Led horse to Hopper Rim & on out to Old Cabin (arriving 11:00). At 10:15 saw only 1 possible condor at Whitewash Ledge. Fair east wind, warm & very dry. Wind died about 11:30. Met Telford Wolk at Old Cabin. He proceeded out to vicinity of #1 nest to set up a cave blind & I led the horse out the road. We shot the horse about 8 times with a 22 pistol & laid the body out about 40 ft. from the blind. The body lay on open rocks with belly toward blind. Blind was about 1/4 mile NW. of #1 nest cave facing about S. We entered blind at 1:20. The horse bled a couple of gallons through the mouth, the blood running down the

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

rocks. Very clear today. Had seen no condors in air up to time entered blind - seems extraordinary for this time of year here. ~~Perhaps w~~ Sid Peyton told me that this is the driest year he has ever known in Fillmore area. If condor presence in Hopper Basin depends somewhat on water supply, the effect should be noticeable this year. No condors or other birds visited the carcass by 3:30. We went back to the road, drove to the head of the tractor trail to Condor Creek, & hiked down the trail to about 1/4 mile NW of Big Cave. At 4:10 saw at least 6 condors there (2 adults). By 4:30 saw at least 17 total, at least 5 of these being immatures, and possibly 17 (7 imm.). One was perched atop Roost Tree. Two were in potholes. One to 3 on Whitewash Ledge. There was a close group atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge - 8 or 9 condors within about a 10 ft. diameter. This group started with about 3 adults & 2 youngsters, & incoming birds joined it. One adult was seen to peck at a youngster. ~~(imm.~~ The farthest away flying birds were seen over foot of East Canyon, circling

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

and rising. About 4 condors were seen in vicinity of the pool atop Big Cave (dry?). We left & hiked up the trail at 4:45. At that time there were about 7 condors in air milling above Big Cave. Later there were 9. Only about 3 at 5 p.m. These birds were probably disturbed by our presence tho none of them soared close over us. The last arriving birds got to Big Cave about 4:30 p.m. — a rather late arrival time & believe possibly due to distant travel today or to light breezes in the afternoon. Sky clear but heavy haze to about 4500 ft. level. We went to Old Cabin to camp. Work told me ~~that~~ Don Bleitz brought a man from Collier's magazine & a female model up to the Work condor nest on the day the chick was found dead. Reputedly this was for the purpose of getting pictures & an article for Collier's. Work also said his group found 2 adults hanging around Arundell Cliffs quite consistently last year. He also said the road through the head of Hopper Canyon had been ~~gro~~ gone over & repaired since his last visit here (Oct. '45). He said he had spent 5 days in ~~the cave~~ blinds trying to get pictures

ford

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March 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

of condors feeding but without results. On one occasion they saw 22 sure (Wood counted 24) condors in air & perched on trees at head of Hopper Canyon when they returned to a carcass they had put there. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. he ~~thought the most~~ likely time for condors to show up at the bait. One of the immatures seen had an pinkish neck but sooty head - from top head appeared like imm. but from below like adult. Some of the adults which alighted ~~stop~~ ~~clip~~ cliff dropped straight down vertically, flapping with wing tips.

March 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Still night. Cirrus clouds in morning. 54°F. at 9 a.m. At 9:15 a.m. we were at head of the canyon & saw 2 condors gliding northward at about 500 ft. altitude. They passed about 200 yds. W. of horse carcass it appeared & continued on toward Whitacre Pk. without circling. At 9:20 we were in blind at horse carcass. The carcass showed no evidence of molestation by carnivores. At 10:20 I heard one raven croaking close at hand - apparently circling over the carcass but out of our sight. Occasionally thereafter heard a raven croak or saw a shadow pass

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March 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

the blind front. The 10' x 4' cave entrance was covered by pieces of white ~~poly~~ composition board & cloth. The cloth flapped much & had 2 holes for Wolk's cameras. At about 2 p.m. two ravens alighted 15± from the carcass, nibbled at dried blood, & carried off pieces of it. About 2:05 they started on the carcass & pulled hair from legs, side, belly, & head. Later one worked about 15 minutes at the exposed eye & reduced it to a socket with white tissue protruding. One or 2 ravens were on carcass almost constantly until 2:45 but apparently made no holes in the skin. Sky clear & fair breeze. By 4 p.m. no more action at the carcass. We left blind. The ravens had made no holes in hide of the horse. The ~~whole arm~~ horse was now swollen and smelled strongly from 50 yards away. At 4:10 saw 2 condors circling over North Point. At about 4:20 they headed toward Arundell Ridge. We drove back to Old Cabin and Wolk left for Los Angeles. At 4:45 from Old Cabin I counted 10 condors (4 in air) at Big Cave (1 atop Roost Tree, others on Whitewash Ledge). Sky 9/10 cirro stratus; dark ~~most~~ haze to 4000 ft. level; fair W. wind. At 4:50 saw 12 condors at Big Cave (8 on Whitewash

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Ledge, 2 atop Roost Tree, 1 in pothole just W. of Big Cave, 1 soaring about roost points. I went to Spring Canyon Meadow & searched Arundell Ridge but saw no condors there. At 5:10 saw 5 in air over Condor Cliff & Big Cave area and at 5:35 2 in air there. Air clear & still. Returned to Old Cabin to camp.

March 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Frost in morning & fair NW breeze. At 7 a.m. there was fog at about 4000 ft. level up the canyon to East Canyon & up Sespe Canyon to Sulphur Pk. Before 9 a.m. I was settled in the blind by horse carcass as of yesterday. Air calm much of the time. Fog melting somewhat. A red tailed hawk flapped a great deal in flying as if air was unsoarable. At about 8 a.m. I saw one raven flying near the carcass. The horse was dripping juice now at several points and was considerably bloated but hide still unbroken. There was a continuous hissing or gurgling from the carcass as if gas were escaping. T. Work yesterday gave me a condor reference: Bulletin No.-23. Feb. 10, 1926. By Walter Fry, In charge Nature Guide Service, Sequoia National Park. This consisted of 2 mimeographed pages including several sight records. At 9:30 two ravens alighted at the carcass, pecked at

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March 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

eye & anus & pulled hair from the side and left about 9:45. ~~Clo~~ Fog had risen to about 3000 ft. level but left Hopper Basin uncovered. 52°F. in blind. I recall Gene Percy told me he had put out meat balls containing a strychnine capsule on his ranch last fall (?) and that he knew of at least one coyote killed by them. Here was a chance for condors to get secondary strychnine poisoning. 10:00 a.m. - Hopper Mtn. cloud covered but most of canyon still cloud free. Light breeze. I saw 2 turkey vultures soar by about 1/4 mile W. of carcass. 10:40 saw one turkey vulture pass about 1/4 mile E. of carcass flap-gliding - much flapping as if air poor for soaring. Sky 5/10 cumulo-stratus with base at about 5000 ft. and fair visibility below. At 11:15 three ravens came & pecked at the dried blood on rocks - left 11:25. At 11:40 ~~3/0~~ three ravens again came & one pecked 3± minutes at the eye - gone at 11:50. Breeze light still. 1:10, a raven alighted on carcass & pecked at eye & penis area. A turkey vulture swooped low and ~~alighted~~ at 1:15 (raven squawked), turned back when about 1/2 mile to SE of carcass, & alighted atop cliff 50± yds. S. of carcass. Buzzard sunned its back, wings

Gymnogyps californianus

March 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

outspread, for 3± minutes. Raven remained on the carcass, clicking the bill, wiping sides of bill on horse leg, & pecking at juicy penis region. 1:28, buzzard suddenly flew off & raven flew to buzzard's perch atop bluff. 1:30, I saw a coyote standing about 100 yds. E. of the carcass. 1:33, I saw one buzzard about 20 ft. E. of carcass apparently pecking at something on the rocks. 1:35, coyote gone. 1:45, buzzard gone - had not touched carcass. 1:58, 2 buzzards atop cliff 100±' SW of carcass, another soared 15±' over carcass, & 2 ravens were within 10±' ~~fo~~ of carcass. 2:02, one buzzard running back 20±' W. of hoss. 2:04 - the two ravens flew off. Sky 5/10 cumulus, cloud bottoms at about 5000' level; light breeze. Intermittent sunshine on carcass. 2:08, buzzard closest to carcass flew off & followed 30± sec. later by the other perched buzzard. No apparent disturbance. 2:55, one raven at carcass; 2:59 - gone. 3 p.m., two turkey vultures were perched atop bluff 100±' SW of carcass. 3:40, two ravens also perched near the vultures. At 3:45 the vultures left & the ravens soon after. Left blind at 4:10. Sky clear, air cool. Saw no condors. Camped at head of canyon,

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Night calm. At 7:10 a.m. I looked at the horse carcass. Flushed one raven from it. Carcass still entire – apparently no coyote visitations. My main task today is to erect a good blind near top of Big Cave. Have procured an old auto tent from Sid Peyton for this purpose. At 9 a.m. parked at head of tractor trail to Condor Creek. Saw 1 raven feeding on the horse carcass. Hiked down road to N. end of cliffs leading to Big Cave & S. along top of cliffs. At 9:10 stopped to observe Arundell Ridge. I saw 2 condors perched on a limb of a dead Ps. at cliff top about 100 yds. E. of #11 nest site. One seemed to be making the mating display, walking up + down the branch for 6± ~~with~~ wings half spread – possibly cunning however. Saw a 3rd. condor flap glide E. near them and land in a dead Ps. 300± yds. ~~farther~~ E. of the pair ~~at~~ on Arundell Ridge. A few minutes later saw a circling over canyon near #11 nest; this one joined another + at 9:45 there were 5 circling over the brush near Condor Falls (rising time? – I was too far away to cause disturbance I believe). Saw a group of 15± turkey vultures over North Slope. Sky clear, air warm, light SW breeze. At 9:58 the pair near #11 nest gone. Saw two

Gymnogyps californianus

March 13, 1996 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

land in the same tree however, one about 2 minutes after the other, & counted 3 sure (5 fairly sure) other condors perched in trees on N. side of Arundell Ridge. 10:02 - about 5 more alighted in trees on Arundell Ridge - 3 on Saddle Ps., & at one time 3 on Flat Ps. 10:04 counted 13, 6 being in air near Arundell Ridge. The oft observed pattern of shifting roost to Arundell Ridge from Big Cave area before going foraging is again apparent. Breeze faint. 10:10, counted 9 on Arundell Ridge, ~~Flat~~ Saddle Ps. & another dead Ps. having 2 each. Maximum number of flaps gliding flaps seen - 9. 10:15, an adult circled over lower North Slope, then glided toward Big Cave area. There is frequent shifting between ~~roosts~~ perches - but at least 7 condors in trees on Arundell Ridge. None visible within 300 yds. of #1 nest. Air dead calm at times. Have seen at least 5 airplanes this morning - 1 went W. over ~~the~~ head of Hopper Canyon & 2 N. over Deeper Canyon. Low flying planes or the noise of them may disturb the condors. 10:30, at least 5 (possibly 7) still perched on N. slope of Arundell Ridge - no shifts in last 10 minutes. I proceeded to about 3/8 mile N. of Big Cave. At 10:50 I saw 4 circling over Condor Canyon at cliff top level. One was an immature

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March 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

An adult alighted atop the high rampart 300± yds. N. of Big Cave and 3± minutes later crouched with wings cocked out to sides & took off. I counted 3 still perched on Arundell Ridge. I saw 2 circling and rising over E ridge between Pyramid LO & Old Cabin. 10:58, at least one of these headed NW when 100± ' above Old Cabin area. 10:59, two adults circled & worked up North slope, then glided toward Old Cabin. Very light S. breeze. The circling adults passed 150± yds. W. of where I sat in open ~~without~~ apparently noticing me. The close perched adult had ruff flat at base of neck & no crop bulge. 11:01, 1 still circling near Old Cabin. Rising time about 10:50 or earlier today. 11:02, 3 additional over or W. of Rim near Old Cabin, 1/4± mile apart. 11:10 - one adult circled near me, rising slowly, and working N. up slope. I timed 3 circles at 11, 15, and 13 seconds (not consecutive). Nearly all circling was to left, occasionally one to right. At 11:30 I arrived atop Big Cave. No condors were perched there. I worked at setting up tent blind about 100 ft. S. of the ~~cliff top~~ falls brink - same place I had my 1941 blind - so that I could observe Whitewash Ledge and cliff top near falls. top. Completed the job at 1:20 p.m. At 12:30, while I worked, 5

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March 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

adults circled overhead, some 60± ' over, and at least one with feet down. At 1 p.m. a single adult circled overhead near sun (shadow attracted my attention). The pool atop Big Cove was bone dry. Nearest damp sand was 75' back from cliff edge - but no water there. Tracks were numerous up to 30' back from cliff edge, then few. I measured the length of stride & offset of several tracks with following results: 15½ x 3¾, 14½ x 2¾, 13½ x 1, 12 x 2¼, 13½ x 3¼, 15½ x 3 (all inches). It is apparent that the condor is a rather straight walker, not a waddler. The toe of ~~his~~ foot often left a dragging mark up to next footprint - at least 12" and very straight. These toe dragging marks were found only in soft dry sand of course. There were patches of grass close to the many condor tracks but no evidence of grass being clipped. However there were numerous tufts of grass which had been pulled up by the roots, & a few small heavily pubescent plants which had also been pulled up. Pieces of down were common in the grass but no large feathers. There were ~~many~~ quite a few condor tracks around some small ~~dry~~ damp potholes in creek bed 100' back from cliff edge, and 3 sets of tracks going to - and 1 returning from - the next damp

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March 12, 1946. Hopper Canyon, Calif.

sand about 130' from cliff edge. Another 100± ft. back was the first water - it was clear & open but there were no condor tracks apparent on the damp sand. Cliff edge was obscured by brush from this water. Apparently, then, the condors must drink elsewhere than atop Big Cave now. I hiked about 1/4 mile N. on cliffs & sat to watch. 2:10, one turkey vulture circled near top of Big Cave. There was one apparent condor atop Flat Pt. on Arundell Ridge. Light S. breeze, clear sky, 75°±. At ~~3:10~~ about 2:30 as I ascended a rise an adult soared 100±' over me from opposite direction. It went straight for 1/4± mile, then began to circle & worked back over me as if out of curiosity. The trailing edge of wings & tail was ragged. The #7 primary of one wing was short 6±", the #5 of other wing missing. In flight, feet are held together with toes back. Toes apparently very close together. At 3:20 I reached my car which was parked in sight of the horse carcass and about 1500 yds. SE of carcass. I saw one adult condor perched atop the rock point about 100 yds. S. of the carcass. The bird held its wings up briefly \/, and seemed once to do a "wind bow", and took off about 3:25 and headed S. down the canyon. Perhaps I disturbed the bird in getting in the car.

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March 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At about 3:25 two condors circled over the W. Rim about a mile SW of carcass. At 3:35, two (same?) circled together about a mile S. of and 500± ' above the carcass. 3:45 - the 2 now S. 17 turkey vultures were over Rim west of carcass, apparently working southward. One condor circled below them - about between sun and carcass. 3:50, the group of 5 dispersed, but 3 scattered 500± ' over or 1/4± mile S. of the carcass. 3:55, 2 of the 3 headed toward Condor Cliff area. 3:59, the third too headed SE at higher altitude. None came closer to carcass than about 300 ft. above it. 4:05, 3 condors were circling and rising together over the divide at head of Hopper Canyon. One headed S. when altitude about 800 ft. & other two continued circling. About 8 turkey vultures milled in a separate group about a mile from the condors. An occasional vulture passed near the condors but there seemed no tendency to join them. 4:10 - no condors in sight. I walked a short way down tractor trail. Saw 2 in Roost Tree at 4:30 (same 4:45 - 1 on tip top, one flattened on top branch) and at least 2 on Arundell Ridge (1 on Saddle Pa., 1 atop green tree near Flat Pa.). Returned to camp. Visited the horse carcass. Found no evidence of condors, turkey vultures, or coyotes having fed upon it.

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March 19, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Drove up Pole Canyon & arrived at Pyramid Lookout on Hopper Rim at 2:45. Sky clear, faint SW breeze, ~~66°~~ 56° F. There was light snow in a few protected spots on the road near Hopper Mtn., some on the ridge W. of Caliblestone Mtn., & much in the ~~Frazier Mtn - Mt. Pinos~~ Tehachapi Mountains area in the distance. Branches & leaves in the road evidenced that the severe wind of last night reached the Hopper Mtn. level. I searched the usual perch points with telescope & found one condor sprawled flat in a pothole in sunshine above Big Cave. No birds were evident in the area of the horse carcass (carcass not visible from Pyramid Lookout). 3 p.m., I saw one condor near Whiteacre Pk. apparently gliding toward the Agua Blanca. 3:03, the bird over Big Cave standing in some pothole, back to sun (I conjecture that this bird probably an immature). This bird gone at 3:15. Water visible at Condor Falls, the first falls below Big Cave. The sand atop Big Cave appears wet from the storm of yesterday - perhaps there is now water there available to condors. 3:48 - two more condors above Big Cave (3 total) on Whitewash Ledge. 3:50, the pothole one & another off - soaring close to Condor Cliff, & 30± sec. later the third

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March 19, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

also in air - all 3 adults. 3:51, two adults circling near Big Cave, feet down, one about 100 yds. behind other. One alighted on a sheltered point 200± yds. W. of Big Cave and 2/3 way to top. 3:56, the 2 off, one after the other. They soared together, follow-the-leader style until 4 p.m. when they alighted ~~on~~ on a point of the cliff S± of Roost Tree. The trailing adult had feet down ~~constantly~~. No flapping but an occasional wing "dip". The follower ~~[illegible]~~ lpieffly chased a third adult, both birds flapping at times or diving together in front of Big Cave. At 4 p.m. three adults (besides the 2) circling over Big Cave, very low (shadows on rocks). At 4:05 I saw one circling over Parking Knoll. This bird rose to 800± ft, then glided toward Big Cave area. 4:07 - three perched ~~at~~ in top of Roost Tree, one on Whitewash Ledge, & the one in air approaching (at least 5 total). 4:09 - two adults over Big Cave, one chasing the other, often banking steeply, both birds flapping (6 total). 4:11 - ~~one left~~ two were together on Whitewash Ledge; one (adult) took off & landed in pothole over Big Cave. 4:08,

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March 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

there were 2 in this 4± ft long potholes - one left & other 30± sec. later. The northernmost pothole below Whitewash Ledge now occupied by an adult. 4:16, two one a ledge above Big Cave - one apparently had difficulty with footing & flapped 13 times before dropping off the cliff. One alighted atop the cliff but was chased off by a flying adult 2± minutes later (both adults). Adults chase adults & imm., but never have I seen an immature chase an adult. Have not seen the roost trees NW of Big Meadow being used this year - perhaps they offer poor protection from the cold. 4:22, I saw 2 (at least 1 adult) come low over the rim NE of Pyramid Lookout. Breeze light from SW as before, 45°F. 4:27, an adult, feet down, soared from foot of East Canyon toward ?/ nest area as if to land near there. 4:30, a lone immature circled close to brush & bluffs at S. side of mouth of East Canyon. 4:33 - a lone adult near head of SE canyon over the Rim; 2± minutes later it met 2 other adults & soared with one of them, the other following 100± ' above. 8 visible at Big Cove area - so 11 total at 4:35. 4:37, 2 adults + 1 imm. (?) near brink of falls atop Big Cove. One adult made motions as if

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March 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

drinking. Three other condors walked toward the pool area from cliff top N. of falls brink. 4:39, none visible on Roost Tree or Whitewash Ledge, but one in pothole below the ledge + at least 3 atop cliff over Big Cave near falls (dry probably). 4:42, a lone adult descended, flat down, near Rock Ridge + alighted on top branch of a dead Ps. in the shade about 100 yds. NW of Rock Ridge, low in the canyon. Saw this adult shake head violently 3± times. The tree was whitened as if used before for roosting - others were in sunshine still 100± yds. up the slope. 4:48 at least 6 visible at Big Cave area, one atop cliff, none in Roost Tree; frequent shifting still. I left Pyramid L O + drove to Old Cabin. Saw 7 at Big Cave at 5:05 but could spot none on Arundell Ridge. Saw 1 late-comer descending northward over Arundell Ridge. Continued on to head of Hopper Canyon + visited the horse carcass - it was somewhat deflated but still unopened. Saw one coyote leaving carcass. Camped at head of Hopper Canyon.

March 15, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Clear cool night. I left car at head of tractor trail to Condor Creek + hiked down cliff

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March 15, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

tops toward Big Cave to watch from blind there. at 9:15 stopped about 1/2 mile N. of Big Cove to watch. Saw 2 circling near #11 nest. Saw 1 adult at top of cliff above nest. Saw 4 perched in separate trees on N. slope of Arundell Ridge - at 9:25 only 1 perched adult still visible there & about 5 in air nearby. 9:25, an adult alighted atop the high rampart 1/4± mile N. of Big Cove. I had a good view with telescope - red crop patch was conspicuous. About 9:27 two adults alighted within a few feet of the one. One walked 10± ' up the rock with wings ⌒ ⌒ as if to balance. One displayed, walking around facing another. The displayer held wings ∧∧ and head ⟮, tail dragging on the rock. The displayee backed away several times & displayer had to walk around the adult. One adult twice put its head under the tail of displayer from the rear & right side & apparently plucked at the feathers in anal region. The displayer pecked at another adult & the second flew off, the displayer reaching the neck out at it with bill wide open. Then displayer took off & chased the other adult - they swooped up flapping in front of Big Cove & the chased one turned in the air so as to bring feet up toward the

Bird

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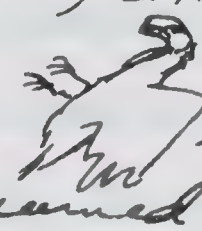
chases at end of one swoop  , then fell off into glide & chase resumed. Retrogressing - an imm. also alighted atop cliff with the 2 adults - all took off when the two left. Displayer showed both red crop patch & red patch at base of neck ventrally (this slightly bulged it appeared). I saw 7 condors circling together & rising 500± ft. over Condor Cliff at 9:35 - some chasing was still going on then. Air cool with light S. breeze; sky clear. 9:42, a group of 5 circling & rising together over head of Pyramid Lookout. One headed SW from 500± ft above Condor Cliff. One adult perched atop F lot. Po. still. 9:45 - no perched birds visible. 9:48, one rising over head of Pyramid Canyon - breeze SE, up this canyon. A group of 3 near Old Cabin, working northward above Rim. "Rising time" about 9:40 today. 9:51 - 5 (" ") circling over Old Cabin area & a sixth circling & working up the slope over Spring Canyon Meadow. Two condors flew within about 50 yds. of me around 9:30 this morning - I was in open sitting atop a rock. They came at separate times & didn't seem much interested. The display was the closest (about 200 yds.) & took place when I was less concealed, than any I recall witnessing before. 9:56, 3 loitering over Old Cabin - ~~two~~ 3 heading S. above Rim (100± ft above) near Pyramid Look-

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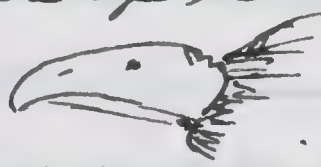
March 15, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

out. A seventh circling over E. slope of Hopper Mtn. top. 10:01 - now 2 over Hopper Mtn., 2 over Pyramid Lookout, & 2 (1000±' high) over Old Cabin. 11:03 - the Pyramid L O pair heading toward Hopper Mtn. - 5 total scattered from Hopper Mtn. to Parking Place, apparently searching rather than making a B-line for known food supply. Fresh SE breeze. 10:06, two adults without crop bulge circled & rose 100± yds. W. of me. One had notch in center of secondaries of both wings — and other a missing ± 4 left primary. The ruff seems always to be in same condition in flight - that is up to the head. The long neck does not show  . 10:11, the pair now 500±' directly above me, circling at same level & 30± yds. apart maximum. 3 still over the Flat Humps area of South Ridge. 10:13, the above pair gone. I headed for Big Cave again. Saw 2 over E. Rim SE of Big Cave. An immature left Big Cave area & soared down Condor Canyon - wings curved — —, tail tilted much. Then 2 adults left that area & circled below Big Cave for 5± minutes - one had ± 4 left primary missing. At 10:30 I was at the pool area atop Big Cave. There were many new tracks to about 30' back from cliff edge, then few. First water was a pool in sand about 25' back from falls brink. Only 2 or 3 condor tracks led to it - more birds may have approached over rock however, but told still very

1 mins
2 ad - ±4 left pr.
10:30 - pool 75' 2 tr. - 5 near over

20 x 2 3/4

16 x 1

7" cent to cent.
width 4 1/2 - 3/4.

10:40 - 1 ad on a L
2 mm - 145?
Chev. Dom Romas. Hd. north

11 - ad x on off.
11:05± - mm. off.
11:10 - on bl.; mm landed
2 over. Cr. bulge. No head
tail tilt.

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small. The water was somewhat roiled as if from birds bathing or wading. There were no new condor tracks further up the creek. 5 condors soared near the Big Cave area at this time - perhaps on account of me. Measured some condor paces 20" long x 2¾" offset, 16" x 1". The length of one track from center of front claw to center of hind one - 7" average of several with little variation. Widths averaged 4½" (claw center to claw center). Some were 4¾ & one 5¾". At 10:40 I peered over the cliff top & saw one adult standing on Whitewash Ledge. About 10:50 I again looked over the edge - an imm. was sunning back about 20' above adult & another imm. standing 20± ' below. Both immatures had the white tips of greater secondary coverts forming a distinct line. Lower one had down just above tarsi for 1±". Both had back of neck & head feathered. Apparently both perfectly fledged - no large feathers missing or battered. Birds of 1945? Perhaps. I took a photo of the ledge & birds from about 200' away - they seemed concerned about me but did not fly. At about 11:00 the adult took off with a sudden jump

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and the lower imm. also took off as if frightened from the perch. When imm. was perched, it gave at least 2 "yawns" which disclosed brownish yellow inside mouth. This imm. & adult circled over Condor Knoll, the imm. above the adult. Then they returned over me. The imm. soared especially close to me several times while adult only came within 50 ft. once. Adult had small crop bulge tho it seemed not when perched. None of these 3 had bands. About 11:05 the other immature took off & circled very close over me, feet down a large part of the time & sometimes flew gliding. I took a photo of this bird in flight. These immatures showed a brownish black triangle in the under wing patches - another sign of youth? The tail of one was quite square cut rather than a smooth arc - a peculiarity which I noted in J L Murray's condor painting. 11:10, I started to erect my tent blind 100± ' SW of falls brink. The last imm. to take off alighted atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge. At about 11:20 I was settled in blind - the imm. took off & in company with another soared over me close, again & again, for

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about 5 minutes. The flight made a rushing rather than a singing sound. Both seemed to have a bulging button in the crop area & a few light (down?) feathers protruding from sternum behind this bulge. All quiet by about 11:25. No condors at Big Cave area by 12:30. Retrogressing - the imm. which circled over me with feet down at one point raised the right leg & scratched 5± times at head or neck, all quite slowly. About 2:45 p.m. an imm. alighted on Whitewash Ledge & an adult 2± minutes later. The imm. was a fuzzy headed one with bare crop patch bulging, & appeared like the one I saw perched at about same spot around 11 a.m. today. The adult was 20±' above imm.. Adult preened. Pecked at a short feather between its feet until feather fell off cliff. There was a fair E. wind flapping my tent blind constantly. Adult had a rosy color on sides of neck from ear down - distinct contrast from orange of the rostrum. Hind neck did not show the rosy hue. Back of neck was dull grayish orange. Between the rosy sides & magenta ventral neck spot was a light grey area. This adult seemed to have crosswise crease or wrinkle lines on back of head & neck & a wart (?) left of center on hind neck. There were scattered black feathers in crown

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area of ~~2:42~~ adult as if bird were somewhat immature. A few between eye & ear & on hind neck too, it appeared. Adult wiped side of head on back & then held bill open for 2± seconds. Most brilliant orange is between frontal feathers & bill (top & sides of rostrum). 3:12, adult again wiped side of head on back quickly & followed this by holding bill open 2± sec. 3:20, both preening. Imm. feathered with short dark gray down on back of head & neck. Ventral cervical apterium is grayish - about same color as legs. Down at tops of tarsi. Brownish orange color in mouth. 3:25, the imm. sunned back, holding wings out for over 4 minutes, then slowly bringing them in. Primaries pointed forward & down during sunning  - the crop bulge was conspicuous. Lining of wing largely white with brownish triangular area. Imm. preened ruff & wing edge while sunning. ~~3:42, I noticed adult &~~ The adult put wings up once in regaining balance - there was small dark area in the white lining - a "near-adult". 3:40 I noticed adult & imm. looking down canyon. At 3:42 another fuzzy headed immature landed on highest perch of Whitewash Ledge. No light colored stripe at tips of greater secondary coverts was evident on this bird; back & sides of neck had short dark down. The newcomer busily preened, nibbling under scapulars

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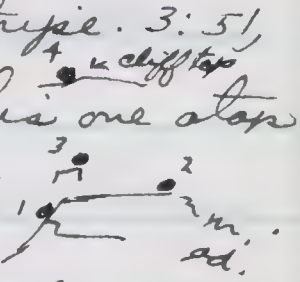
and tail. The near adult had the light wing stripe. 3:51, another fuzzy headed imm. alighted - this one atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge. Birds appeared



~~now~~ Apparently none of these birds had soared near ~~me~~ my blind before they landed - I detected them abruptly on the cliff. Fair wind still. Sky clear. Air cool - 55° in blind. It seems that immatures are last to leave & first to return to roost - how then do they get enough to eat? Perhaps fed by adults - but I have never seen this in spring! 4:08, ~~no~~ change. Top imm. does not have bulging bare crop patch. Ruff up to ears on top imm.. Down at tops of tarsi & ~~what~~ light wing chevron on this bird too. 4:10, top imm. walked 15± ' down rock, wings up, until over the near adult (#2). 4:12, a ~~4th~~ fourth imm. landed clear of the others on the ledge. This one had red eye, pink ventrally on neck but dark head with feathers on hind neck & head. Wing lining was ~~brown~~ brownish white rather ~~uniform~~ uniformly rather than some white & some brown feathers. This bird sunned back for 1± minute a few seconds after landing (#5). Birds numbered in order of arrival. 4:13, #4 flapped toward falls brink & took 22 flaps but apparently stalled before reaching a perch & soared back to alight on lower Whitewash Ledge. at ~~4:19~~ 4:19

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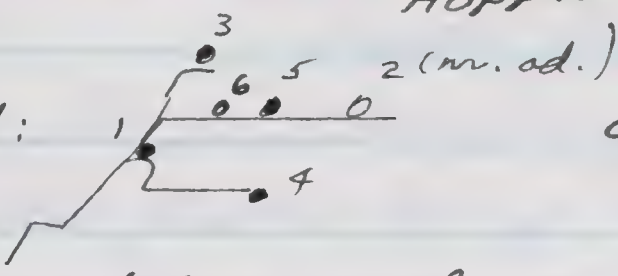
the birds appeared:



an older yet imm. perched next to #5 - this one with orange cheeks & pink neck but sooty around eyes & back crown. 4:21 - several landed; 10 total visible. 4:25 - 14 visible, 8 definitely immatures (not counting #5). Some adults are rosy around ears & sides of neck - others not — a sexual characteristic? Saw one display briefly atop cliff. An imm. landed 20± ' N. of dry pool atop falls but left. 4:40± - 15 total; at least 7 dark heads. 4:45 - three adults atop cliff over Big Cove. One was a near-adult — a little sooty. One adult displayed in usual fashion, back of neck toward displayee, tail not spread but dragging stiffly on the rocks. The displayee was the near adult. It nibbled at wing lining and crop apterium of displayer. Displayer put one foot on top of head of other 3± times. The third adult was in the way of the 2 much of the time; it left & display continued. Displayer had no noticeable pink on sides of neck but red spot at base dorsally was very bright & crop apterium bulged (even after display). ~~The~~ The walking motion was mainly a side to side rocking on the feet. Displayee left & displayer 1± minute later. Displayer

Ford

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landed next to an old immature (very sooty head) and 2± times put a foot on top of its head before it flew. 5 p.m. Frequent perch shifting. Looked for banded birds - no luck. One alighted next to another on ledge - feathers flew & there was a sound like a snarling dog - inhaling & exhaling as a few feathers flew & one bird flew off. Perhaps ~~feathers~~ chigge scratching on rock? a few seconds later there was a light cough sound as another left perch. My blind apparently good - some alighted within 100 ft. at 5:06, 1 imm. & 2 adults near falls brink. 13 condors in view. One adult summed back 2± minutes about 4:45. 5:08, adult & imm. atop ~~to~~ cliff near falls - both standing calmly. Adult off about 5:09 & imm. 5:10 - both to other perches on cliff. Stepping flaps in landing seem to be about 3/second ~~two~~ - same for shifting perch - this is result of 3 timings. Have heard up to 11 flaps given before landing. 5:15 - 6 condors in about 5' drain. circle atop cliff over Big Cove. Dark head nibbled head of an adult there. adult nibbled head of sooty headed one. Later adult put head under neck of this one & seemed to throw it over backward - there was a grunt or of expelled air as this occurred. The sooty headed one have unfeathered area be-

Gymnogyps californianus

March 15, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif

low & behind the mandible - rest of head sooty tho color shows through somewhat & pink sides of neck evident. 5:22, 6 near dry pool at falls, 3 in shade. Fuzzy headed imm. somewhat alone in the group. It nibbled sand. It nibbled green grass & tossed it from ~~its~~ the bill several times. One adult ~~to~~ stalked another as if going to display. It put head under the other ones anal region - the other gave a jump & lost a pinch of down plus a 4± " feather which remained in the first ones bill. ~~5:25~~ Much shifting of perches still at 5:30 - 10 atop cliff & 4 (3 imm.) on Whitewash Ledge. ~~Omm~~ One imm. crouched flat on the ledge. Saw one sooty head peck twice at another (each time a hiss was heard). a third then pecked at the pecker; pecker took off followed by the third, & then the first pecked at took off after them. 5:35 - sunset line crossed top of cliff above Big Cave. One or more in flight almost constantly heard or seen. One sooty head landed ~~on~~ at a perch where another just landed & first took off. 5:38, heard a grunt sound like a supressed belch - I do believe the birds make hisses, grunts, & growls occasionally. Air calm since about 4:30 p.m. 5:40 - only 6 in sight now - 3 on Whitewash Ledge & 2 atop

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cliff and are in pothole. I cannot see Roost Tree or potholes on N. face of Condor Cliff from blind - the rest may be there. None has seemed to be alarmed by the blind. Adult has ruff down - 52°F., no wind. 5:43, only 1 (imm.) on Whitewash Ledge now - 3 in potholes over Big Cave, one on shelf there, & 1 adult atop cliff 300± yds. N. of Big Cave. 5:48, the ~~shelf~~ shelf one off & one (same?) into small pothole over Big Cave which contained another adult. 5:55, the imm. shifted from the open ledge to shelf over Big Cave (somewhat protected). The 3 potholes over Big Cave each contain at least 1 adult. One young adult still atop cliff 300± yds. N. of Big Cave. 5:57, a second fuzzy head was perched below Whitewash Ledge. It flew to shelf by other imm., then about 1 minute later to Whitewash Ledge. ~~at~~ 6 p.m.; 4 orange heads + 2 fuzzy heads visible at least in part, none seemingly crouched flat for the night. Two ravens cawed vociferously near Big Cave - imm. seemed mildly interested. 6:02, a ~~3rd~~ third fuzzy head alighted in hole below Whitewash Ledge (unoccupied). 6:03 - the orange head left cliff top, one adult alighted low on Whitewash Ledge, & by jumps + flaps worked 20±' up the ledge. The 5. pothole over Big Cave became

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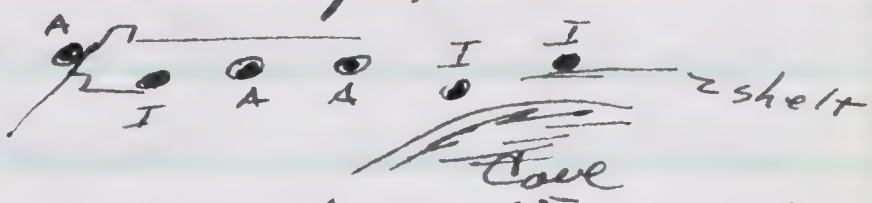
vacant - lowest immature flapped up to it & im. at 6:05:



6 at Big Cove area.

6:08, with 17 flaps, one entered this pothole & the imm. left. adult gone from Whitewash Ledge so probably same (peck order?). 6:10, the lone imm. on Whitewash Ledge now crouched flat on ledge facing cliff. 6:12 - heard one ~~have~~ flap off - apparently the last one to alight in pothole. All 3 potholes filled at 6:15 (by adults) and 2 imm. on open ledges. Air calm. 6:25 - now a second on lower Whitewash Ledge. & the imm. previously there shifted to the shelf over top of Big Cove. Poorwills heard - first this year. 6:45 p.m. - by moonlight mainly saw 2 still on Whitewash Ledge & 1 on shelf over Big Cove. Same at 11 p.m. ~~At 6:30~~ ~~F. Woo~~ Telford Work, ~~At~~ Al Wool, & Harold ~~Hull~~ Hill arrived. Work stayed in blind with me & ~~Work~~ Wool & Hill camped up the canyon from Big Cove. They had been at horse carcass to about 4 p.m. but no condors had come. They met Frank Crumbell on way up Pole Canyon & Frank told them of his condor collecting experiences in the old days very willingly. Work will take movies at Big Cove tomorrow while Hill & Wool will explore East Canyon.

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March 16, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At 6:30 a.m. of this cold clear day saw one adult crouched flat on Whitewash Ledge & one imm. on shelf over Big Cave. Latter had head tucked in. Adult tucked head in later, then out again after a few minutes. Ruff way up, monk style. 6:40, imm. had head out & preened occasionally. ~~Foils~~ Rear ¼ of adults were visible protruding from 2 of the potholes over Big Cave (none seen from ~~southernmost~~ one). So - at least 2 condors spent all night on open ledges ~~of~~ near Big Cave & at least 2 in potholes there. The roosting position was with head tucked in & at 11 pm last eve it could be seen that 2 on Whitewash Ledge were crouched flat, 6± feet apart, & the imm. over Big Cave seemed to be standing but with head tucked in (moonlight night). One by one the condors left Big Cave & flew down Condor Canyon - all gone by 6:55 ~~the~~ sunshine on Whitewash Ledge & atop cliff over Big Cave. By 7:15, 4 (1 imm.) condors in sunshine at lower Whitewash Ledge. They probably come from Roost Tree or potholes on N. face of Condor Cliff. ~~Adult so~~ ~~a~~ 7:22, 2 adults sunned backs on lower Whitewash Ledge. Work shot some pictures of this. After 3± minutes one folded one wing (toward cliff, tip in shade) & continued sunning. Both stopped sunning by

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7:27. 7:31 there was a group of 3 adults which had been together 10± minutes. Suddenly one lunged at a second, the second took off, & the lunger followed 30± sec. later - a fuzzy headed immature alighted in its place. Imm. sunned back. 7:33, another dark headed imm. alighted 5± ' below the sunner. Adult 30± ' ft. higher on the Whitewash Ledge took off down the canyon. The imm. sunned almost continuously for about 6 minutes. Lower imm. took off at 7:49 leaving adult & imm. 8± ' apart on a shelf below Whitewash Ledge (only 2 visible). Clear sky. Fair wind by 7:50. 7:54, a second fuzzy headed imm. joined the 2 condors on same ~~bdo~~ shelf. 7:58 an adult alighted atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge (2 imm. & 2 adults now visible). 8:10 - the 3 group preened. One imm. had poor wing stripe & fairly uniform brownish white under wing patches; also light colored at base of neck. Preened with wing sagging at side. Adult atop cliff had puff way up to 40°F. in blind. About 8:25 adult atop cliff left & 1 imm. from below. Other imm. was in shadow as adult sunned back for 4± minutes (only left wing out last minute). The imm. left & adult 2± min. later at 8:32

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8:45, an adult & imm. alighted on Whitewash Ledge about 8' apart. Imm. shifted to cliff top near folks brink but seemed disturbed (by camera movement?) and flew back to ledge. Work shot pictures of adult. Scrutiny with telescope revealed this adult had a band (?) on right leg - Work identified it as the eagle band they placed on nesting adult last year. I was not sure. It appeared very tight & halfway up the tarsus - well whitened, not shiny. At 9:24 this adult took off. Made a "wind bow" down canyon about 1 minute before finally raising wings & taking off (Work photoed this). This adult had bulging crop - imm. did not. 9:45, still only 1 imm. left as before. Fair wind continued. We left blind & took some pictures of points around Big Cave but saw no condors - fair E. wind at 10:25 we left Big Cave - the imm. was still on ledge (1945 youngster I judged). We hiked to cars at head of tractor trail (arrived 11:15). Saw 3 ravens at horse carcass - no condors. Work told ~~him~~ me that Don MacLean showed them on a map the place on Pine Creek where he said he once found a half grown youngster. He marked a spot about 4 miles from Ridge Route. The group went on 9 miles down before getting

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to the described place & found nothing. The place was in a pothole about 200 ft. above river bottom. We returned to Big Cave. Saw one close adult about 12:45 + young imm. about 1 p.m. We entered blind at 1:35 – light E. breeze, sky clear, 70°F. By 4 p.m. no condors had landed at Big Cave area. Light breeze – much less than yesterday at this time. 4:40 p.m. – condors heard soaring near; 2 seen circling in front of Big Cove. An adult landed in pothole over N. side of Big Cove. Adult off down canyon at 4:50. Although not obviously disturbed, the condors may have been so disturbed by the blind & people yesterday, last night, & today that they do not feel safe roosting at Big Cave tonight. Left blind about 5:20 & hiked N. along cliff tops. Saw one condor perched flat on Flat Ps. + possibly one other on Arundell Ridge by search with telescope. Perhaps the condors are not roosting in Hopper Basin tonight. Returned to camp at head of Hopper Canyon.

March 17, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Fairly warm moonlight night overcast with cirrus clouds. T. Work & I, drove to Parking Place. At 7 a.m. saw 1 condor atop Flat Ps. on Arundell Ridge, 1 in a dead Ps. in Parking Canyon on steep side of Parking Place. (300± yds. down

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March 17, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

from road, & 2 in separate dead Ps. near foot of Water Tank trail near Rock Ridge. We picked a spot in Big Meadow for building a blind from which to photo & watch condor bait. At ~~a~~ about 9 a.m. all the 4 birds as before. We drove to Pete Ligavis, then back on rim. At 10 a.m. saw ~~that~~ bird in Parking Canyon & on Arundell Ridge were gone. None visible in Big Cave area. At 10:05 saw one gliding ~~st~~ S. about 300' above Rim near Old Cabin. Arrived at camp at head of canyon about 10:25. Air calm & hazy up to then - a light breeze commenced. Worked at camp, then hiked to top of Big Cave - seeing no condors on the way - and entered blind at 12:30 with T. Work. By 4:30 p.m. no condors were seen or heard in Big Cave area. 60°F. in blind, light breeze. Left blind at 5 p.m. - no condors in sight. Met Al Wool & Harold Hill. They had been down East Canyon, then down Hopper Canyon and up Water Tank Canyon, then back to foot of East Canyon (where camped), then up Hopper Creek ~~to~~ past #11 nest and #1 nest to head of Hopper Canyon. They saw a condor near #11 nest, 2 or 3 others perched in trees on Arundell Ridge, and one in a pothole near North Point which acted as if it had an egg in the hole. They

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March 17, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

watched this bird from about a half mile - it held head low as if pecking at feet & went back in cave several times, each time apparently settling down with a shimmying motion as if on an egg. [rest 12]
No eating of the week old horse carcass yet.

March 18, 1946. Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Calm cold night (frost). At 8 a.m. fog up lower Hopper Canyon at about 3500 ft. level. We left camp at about 9 a.m. & went to Parking Place. Fog came up the canyon & engulfed us + We built a blind of sheet metal under some bushes in Big Meadow. Fog gradually lifted above the Rim. At 11:45 one condor soared over us heading S±. Breeze was light, air cool. We saw 3 then perched atop Arundell Ridge on Saddle Ps. One flew to a high Ps. near Flat Ps.. At 12:15 we saw 6 circling over Arundell Ridge, rising, & none perched. They worked up the slope to near Pyramid L O + headed S±. We saw 7 at about 12:25 from Parking Place. Two were adults, one a near adult, & 4 immatures. They circled close (100±') over us soaring slowly. 3± birds had missing #4 or #5 primary. One imm. had feet down. Ceiling was about 200' overhead. The two adults come together - one chased the other briefly. The adults & 1 imm. glided N E toward the Lesque & 3 others

ord.

Gymnogyps californianus

March 18, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Ca K.F.

E. into Hopper Canyon. Breeze was fair from S. Sun breaking thru ~~clouds~~ cumulo-stratus clouds occasionally. At 1:10 saw one adult perched on limb of the dead Po. nearest ~~road~~ road just W. of Parking knoll. We walked down the road toward the bird. It put ~~head~~ bill down near feet, ruff up. As we passed behind the bird, it turned around slowly. Scratched head with right foot. We took a few photos for about 3 minutes from about 75' from the adult, then the bird turned around & took off down the canyon. We then went to Old Cabin and down to Spring Canyon Mdw. to observe the hole where Hill & Wool saw a condor yesterday. This hole was about 2' high & ◐-shaped located about halfway up a 60±' high sheer W. facing cliff about 100 yds. N. of North Point (about 40' below highest top of bluff there). This cave is easily watchable from ~~B~~ Spring Canyon Mdw. ~~& the~~ There was a dark spot in the cave which may have been a condor or an egg (2:10 p.m.) At 2:10 saw three condors flying about the trees on Arundell Ridge. 2:38, we whistled & shouted & the adult in #12 nest came to cave entrance. The bird stood facing down canyon, then up, & at about 2:44 walked back into the hole & again hole appeared as sketched above. 2:45, saw 3 condors over Arundell Ridge. Cumulo-~~stratus~~ clouds

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March 18, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

at about Rim level & hazy below. Fair S.E. breeze. Hill said that in 1940 a group stayed in Hopper Canyon for two weeks. One man looked for a condor nest near Arundell Cliffs for some time & finally saw a condor enter the Work nest. One member of this party wrote an article about the trip for an eastern magazine but did not mention the egg collector. The egg was taken about March 17, 1940 Hill recallects. Frank Arundell told them the other day that he took one egg about 1/4 mile below Big Cave. Because of threatening weather we returned to camp at head of Hopper Canyon. We visited the horse carcass - still unbroken hide & much stink with hair falling off. At 1:30 the cloud base lifted to about 4300 ft. level & we saw two condors circling over Big Meadow in the very clear air. Weather closed in again & we went to Pete Logan's in Pole Canyon for the night.

March 19, 1946 Nr. Whitecare Pk., Calif.

Hiked to Whitecare Pk. & back to head of Hopper Canyon in fog & drizzle & light snow. Saw no condors.

March 20, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Snow & fog all day at head of Hopper Canyon and on Hopper Rim - snow 3" deep on level. Sky broke somewhat about 4 p.m. but probably too late for condors to search for food.

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March 21, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif

Hiked from head of Hopper Canyon to North Point and down slope to Cave Point arriving 10:25 a.m. with Al Wool. At 9:00 we were 1/4 ± mile N. of North Point & saw one adult (with #5 primary missing from each wing, a near center rectrix missing, & a notch in inner left secondaries) circling over the ridge at NE of North Point. This bird passed 300 ft' above us then glided to vicinity of #1 nest cave, circled 5 ± times, then glided N. over the rim ~~toward~~ into Agua Blanca watershed, never pausing although passing nearly over the old horse carcass. Maybe this was a #12 nest adult. There was a cloud layer with bottom at about 4000' level - it had risen up the canyon from a foglike lower layer. We could spot no perched condors from Cave Point but saw one circle & rise from vicinity of #11 nest at about 10:30 - this bird rose over Arundell Ridge into cloud base. It had #5 left primary missing - no other apparent feather gaps. At 10:50 this adult spiraled down & alighted on top limb of a dead Po. about 300 yds. W. of #11 nest cave. The bird preened there & at 11:04 took off, circled & rose over Arundell Ridge to 300± ft. altitude, then glided in ~~toward~~ Big Cave direction (11:11). A red-tailed hawk soared & dove above Arundell Ridge but no interaction with the

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March 21, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

condor. We had entered the cave at Cave Point at about 10:40 to observe #11 nest vicinity. 40° F., fair breeze from SE, cloud bases at about 4000 ft. (cumuls ~~stratus~~). Many snow patches on rocks & ground from yesterday's storm. 11:26 an adult landed in same dead Ps. again & took off about 1 minute later & soared E. down canyon passing 80±' above #11 nest - perhaps our original approach flushed the incubating adult which is now trying to reenter the nest but is disturbed by us. Our location was in a cave about 1/4 mile NW of #11 nest.

At 11:43 the adult returned & perched atop Flat Ps.. Saw this bird excrete in air while flying - left a long string of droppings in air. About 11:46 shifted to a green Ps. 300± yds. ~~the~~ W. of #11 nest & at 11:47 to the first tall dead Ps. Before the 11:46 perching the adult soared 100±' above our cave. We stayed well back in cave but were visible from the pond ~~tress~~ on Arundell Ridge. The adult jumped up to a 4±' higher perch about 2 minutes after landing. In 3 landings on this tree the adult has used 3 different perches. Present perch is 12±' from top of 60±' tall dead Ps. on a 12±" stub branch. Branch will not support outer toe of left foot apparently as too short - bird is squeezed against trunk & facing ~~away~~ out from cliff (toward us). Puff up to ears. Adult once flapped wings several times as if to

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March 21, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

regain balance. We had a small warming fire in the cave - visible to perched adult doubtless. No crop apterium visible in perched bird tho possibly some bulge. Still perched at 12:30 - one adult stretched left wing down & back. We left Cave Point about 12:40 to avoid keeping adult from nest. At 12:50 we saw 6 condors total - one as above, one atop Roost Tree (this tried to alight in pathole ¼± mile N. of Big Cave & gave 13 flaps trying to get a foothold, then dropped off & flew to tree) & 4 circling above Big Cave. We went up Condor Creek & visited ~~Hoka's~~ Hill's nest (arrived 1:40). Apparently no condor visitation since my last visit. Fog descended & engulfed us at Condor Cliff about 1:45. We returned to camp at head of Hopper Canyon - fog the rest of the day there.

March 22, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Clear frosty night. Drove & hiked to Pyramid Lookout arriving 8:30 a.m. (with Al Wool). Sky clear, haze in valleys, fog N. of Lieber - Cobblestone ntn. line. At 8:35 saw one adult circling over Arundell Ridge. It worked over Spring ~~Canyon~~ Mdw., flap circling, taking 15 flaps consecutively once. ~~E~~ Timed 7 flaps in 3 seconds once. This bird worked up over Old Cabin (about 8:45) & then headed straight

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March 22, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

toward the Scope in a long flex glide. About 1 mile W. of Rim it put feet halfway down, circled back, then continued on toward the falls at Oil Well Pt. on the Big Scope, occasionally giving a wing dip. When last seen at 8:51 it was near the cliffs 1/4± mile S. of the falls – not improbably a nesting adult; early rising time & no company do not indicate foraging. May be going to the nest or I found there in 1940. At 8:40 I saw 4 condors at Big Cave area about 1/3 way up the cliff, perched on ledges & occasionally shifting. 9:13, occasional light breezes, 50°F. I saw 2 adults circling near Condor Knoll (below Big Cave) & 2 condors perched on Whitewash Ledge. 9:15, three atop cliff above Whitewash Ledge & 2 on Ledge & 1 on Saddle Pk. – 6 total (+1 to Scope & one each on #11 & #12 nests = 9). 9:25 – four (2 ad; 2 imm.) circling over lower Condor Canyon; ~~two~~ one on Whitewash Ledge, 1 sunning (for 4 1/2 minutes continuously, sunning back, wings out) on Saddle Pk. ~~9:30~~ 9:30 one gone from Saddle Pk.. 9:35, one adult atop Flat Pk.; sunned back for 2 minutes. Five circling near Condor Knoll, none visible near Big Cave. 9:40, adult left Flat Pk. – none visible perched anywhere. 9:45 – one adult was ~~above at~~ at about 4500 ft. level over Spring Canyon Mdw. after having worked

11:55 lit. off GTV.
57 relit
8 - 100 yds 11
9 - off

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up from ~~near~~ over Sandstone Mesa. 9:48, 5 visible over Rim at head of Hopper Canyon - 2 left near Whitacre Pk. at 9:53. One of the 5 peeled off & descended into the Pine drainage in direction of Whitaker Pk. 9:55 - 3 condors circling 500± ' above Whitacre Pk.. ~~Sub~~ Occasional light breeze; 50°F. 10:00 - 3 over Whitacre Pk. still, circling aimlessly. Followed one about 2 miles E., another 2 miles W. of the peak. At 10:10 picked up one N. of White Point coming up from below Rim level. It circled & rose, soared halfway to North Point, circled working back over the horse carcass, then glided W. over the Rim at Small Mdw. Pass at 50± ' altitude. 10:23, 2 condors circling at 300± ' over Rim NE of North Slope. 54: The two flew glided into Hopper Canyon & descended, feet down, toward Crundell Ridge, at least one disappearing behind the ridge as if to alight about 10:28. 10:45, saw one circling over Old Cabin, apparently having come from N. It rose to 1000± ' & then headed N. again. 10:55, there were 2 turkey vultures flying & perching above #12 nest. A condor adult alighted on cliff edge above the nest (10:55). At 10:57 it took off & alighted 100± ' to N. & 50± ' lower down on a small point, flushing a turkey vulture from the spot. 10:58 the condor took off & perched

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about 150 yds. N. of #12 nest on a rock point. 10:59 the condor took off, soared past the nest, & circled & rose around North Ridge & over the Rim near White Cliffs. Perhaps this was one of the nesting pair, driving the buzzards from the spot. I have often seen 1 or 2 turkey vultures at this area this season - perhaps the condors have their nest hole. Saw another condor circling beyond the Rim (NE) at about 11:05. By 12:00 saw no more condors. We worked at getting our cars out of the mud & returned to Pyramid Lookout at about 2:25. At 2:30 I saw an adult soaring 100± ' above Rock Ridge & watched it until 2:44 when it swooped behind Arundell Ridge as if to land there. During the flight the bird descended over Rock Ridge & landed on a ledge halfway up the cliff, then took off 15± sec. later, circled over East & Southeast Canyons (foot) and over foot of North Slope. Several (3±) times it put feet down for a few seconds, then raised them. Occasionally it gave a wing dip. Sometimes it circled & gained altitude & at other times flex-glided & lost altitude. At 2:35 it joined another adult & circled with it for 2± minutes. At 2:45 saw one imm. circle & rise to W. of the lookout & then high above it.

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March 22, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Breeze light to fair from SW, temp. 58°F. at 2:57 two circled & rose over the Rim from W. near the lookout. 3:27 saw one adult, very stuffed () over Old Cabin - this bird descended in a steady flap glide toward the Sulphur Pk. area (or oil Well Pt.?) too hazy to follow over a mile W. of Rim. 3:35, 8 condors seen approaching Old Cabin area from NW. 3:50 - 3 scattered over E. Rim at about 4500 ft. level; still none visible perched. 4:08, one imm. spiraled down & landed in next highest dead Ps. E. of Parking Place. This was dark head with dark triangles in wing lining patches. Swimmed front, wings out, for 1± minute. 4:19 - I saw one adult spiral down, lower feet, & swoop to land on a top branch of a dead Ps. near center of cliff face of Rock Ridge. This one gone at 4:25, youngster as before. At 4:30 left the lookout. Saw none in Parking Canyon. Drove to Old Cabin & at 5 P.M. saw 3 at Big Cave (1 atop Roost Tree, two on ledge). Drove on to road opposite #12 nest (about 1 mile). at 5:15 whistled & shouted and the adult ~~ca~~ rose slowly & stood in entrance facing down canyon with wings cocked ⅗. The entrance was so small that the bird filled it & seemed to be down on its heels to fit in. There was a supporting ledge below the hole of only a few inches it appeared. The tail of the bird

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had been visible from our position D. After 2½ minutes the bird folded wings & stood with back to us & sun. Adult slipped & regained footing with several flaps. It spread wings & sunned back for about 1 minute, the wings being outside the nest cave. At 5:17 the bird entered cave & slowly & sat about as before after hesitating with head down (a look back, or rolling egg). We continued on to camp at head of Hopper Canyon.

March 23, 1946 Nr. Fillmore, Ventura Co., Calif.

Cool clear calm night, some frost. With Al Wool drove from head of Hopper Canyon to Fillmore. At 7 a.m. saw at least 2 condors at Whitewash Ledge (one about 15' above oak tops), none in Pole Canyon. Arrived Fillmore about 9 a.m. Drove to gate on Big Sespe road & hiked to Oil Well Point — departing 10:35 & arriving 12:30. Saw no activity by 1 p.m. around old nest site opposite (toward Sulphur Pk.) the point though whitewash was fresh appearing on several rock points & ledges in that area. Hiked through the brush & rock up the slope toward the old nest. At 14:10 we saw an adult & immature (fuzzy head, perhaps a 1945 youngster) standing together on a rock about 100 yards from us. We dove into the brush & came up about 50 yards from them. — They remained.

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March 23, 1946 Big Sespe Canyon, Calif.

We again approached & at 2:23 saw they were in air. The immature had dark patch in center of wing lining patches & a light white line on wing - no color visible on head tho yellow-brown in mouth. Imm. had slit in right side of tail (N) and ±2 right primary missing. The two passed 100± over us heading S±, then back over us. The imm. was obviously a poorer flier than the adult & did much more tail tilting. A good deal of the time imm. followed 100± behind adult as if following the leader. Imm. had a protruding button on sternum - to rear of usual crop bulge in adults; fuzzy down above tarsi too. We searched for the old nest. At 3 p.m. the same two again soared over us within about 50 ft., several times. Imm. had feet down occasionally. At 3:11 the adult & imm. perched upon an outjutting rock point about ¼ mile toward Sulphur Pk. from the old nest - there was a great deal of wing flapping & it appeared that the imm. was begging for food (possibly fed). Another adult circled near - perhaps we flushed this one from a nest. I entered the old nest cavity & found no evidence of use since my last visit. I found but 2 bones (ungulate hoof & rabbit sized femur)

Gymnogyps californianus

March 23, 1946 Big Sespe Canyon, Calif.

and a 1" squarish rounded brown piece of glass (a piece of beer bottle?). The only whitewash appeared ~~some~~ quite old & a few old feathers were about. The green bushes at mouth of this cavity were not worn or whitened. A rock point & ledge about 100 ft. out (on ridge) from the nest were heavily whitewashed, & 2 points about 100 yds. up canyon (to E.) were also well & freshly whitened. The whitening may have been caused by an imm. raised last year or by adults perched near a nest. I feel that there is another nest site near this cave. While I was in cave the adult flew very close to it with feet down, alighted on a rock point 100±' N. of cave, & craned its neck as if peering in at me. About 3/8 mile toward Sulphur Pt. from this cave is an outcropping with several whitened spots, & 1/2± mile further on a dead Ps. with some whitened limbs. It is probable that the adult I saw head for this locality yesterday about 8:30 a.m. was one of the adults present today. At 3:35 we left the nest area & proceeded down to the river near Oil Well Pt. Left the Point at 4:30 & hiked toward Fillmore. At 5 p.m. we saw two adult condors perched 10±' apart on two very

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March 23, 1946 Big Sespe Canyon, Calif.

much whitewashed points on next to top ledge of the high, red sandstone bluffs to E. of Sespe River about ½ mile below Tar Creek & ~~500 to 700~~ about 600 ft. above creek bed. As we watched one took off & rounded the top corner of the bluff ¼ mile downstream (could not spot it later from further downstream). The other then took off, circled, & again alighted at same point. The whitewash there appears old & yellowed - because of protected nature of the points the ~~wh~~ excrement remains. We continued on to our car at Van Tree's gate (arrived 6:35). Sid Peyton told me he had seen a young condor fed in about May, at about the same place we saw the adults at 5 p.m. but 100± ft. lower on the cliff. The adult had flown in & perched & the imm. followed, then was fed. Sid saw the feeding another time too. Met game warden Shebley on the road - he hauled me down with siren & red light thinking I was a fish poacher. He said that when he put carcasses out on the ridge S. of Fillmore about 5 years ago he got as ~~many~~ many as 26 condors there & got pictures of them with an 8 mm. camera. He said the condors ate bob cats but not the coyotes he put out. He lives

Gymnogyps californianus

March 23, 1946 Big Sespe Canyon, Calif.

on 4th or 5th St. in Fillmore now & would be glad to talk condors some evening. Warden Greenwald lives at Bungalow Inn & may also have some info.. Shelley seemed intelligent & young (about 38±).

March 25, 1946 Santa Paula Canyon, Calif.

Drove from Fillmore to Santa Paula Canyon with Sidney Peyton Jr. Parked about 1 mile below Pine Flat Camp. Hiked to the old condor nest (Herkenner 1939) & descended cliff & entered nest at 12:00. Saw no condors up to then. Day clear & warm; fair east wind blowing. The point at cave entrance & 2 or 3 others 100± yds. further up the canyon were well whitened – fresh whitewash it appeared. Inside the nest cave I collected about 10 bone fragments, teeth, & shell fragments (clam-like), & about 50 ticks from crevices in the rock ceiling (same as collected in 1939). At 12:30 left the cave. The bees were still quite active in ~~the~~ a hole in the rocks near cave entrance. ~~Sid~~ I saw 2 adults about 500 ft. overhead at 12:30; Sidney told me they had soared about for 5± minutes to within about 200 ft. of ~~over~~ cave. I estimated ~~that~~ no chick had been raised in that cave since 1939. Saw no evidence of collectors having visited the site. Saw 2 old raven nests

SD Co Map
Deron loc.
Tp. mtr.
load ousco
Teleg. Kil [illegible]

Gymnogyps californianus

March 25, 1946 Ojai, Calif.

across the canyon top (~~200±'~~ 200±') from the old nest. Returned to car & drove to Ojai where talked with Ranger Lyda. He said the new supervisor, Mr. Brenneis, was very interested in wildlife & had mentioned to Lyda the fact ~~that the~~ Audubon people wanted to make Hopper Canyon a condor sanctuary. Lyda was of the opinion ~~that~~ the general condition of the trails in this district was quite poor - many impassable to horses. Lyda said the oil company that had the drilling permit for Hopper Canyon had apparently folded up - they did not even answer their mail. Sid Peyton said the condors in Santa Paula Canyon had nested about 100 yds. further up the canyon from the nest I looked in and about 8 ft. down from cliff top ~~at~~ (once?).

March 26, 1946 Santa Paula Canyon, Calif.

Drove from Fillmore to end of Pine Canyon road. Left car at 9:10, & with Sidney Peyton Jr. hiked up Pine Canyon toward Santa Paula Lookout. At 11:30 crossed saddle near the lookout & hiked toward Cienega Camp. Up to this time saw no condors though air very clear. Calm until about 10:30 a.m. Saw some whitewash near old Peyton nest (picture in Bent). In head of Santa Paula Canyon in the red sandstone cliffs saw fresh appearing whitewash at one point where I had seen it several years

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 26, 1946 Santa Paula Canyon, Calif.

ago. At 12:10 we had finished lunch & were starting back toward Pine Canyon. I saw one imm. flap gliding fast down Santa Paula Canyon from near head (of E. Fork) then & two adults circling over the brushy slopes. All three circled & rose above horizon and worked back toward Bear Heaven or Coldwater Canyon in a scattered (2± miles) group. The red cliffs at head of E. fork appear very favorable for condor roosts or nests. Headed back toward Pine Canyon & arrived at Pine - Lords Canyon divide at 1:20. Took the ~~a~~ Coldwater trail through head of Pine Canyon until 1:45. This trail is very poor & impassable to horses. Returned to the divide (2:00 p.m.) & hiked to end of Pine Canyon road (3 p.m.) and drove to Fillmore. Saw no condors in Pine Canyon nor evidence of roosting in trees. The rock point above the old Peyton nest on N. side of canyon appears to be the most likely condor perch. Mr. Appleton of Simi told me the following story when we were on way to C.O.C. meeting in L.A. About "45 years ago" Appleton shot a condor near Simi. ~~of~~ The bullet struck a second in the head & wounded it. The killed bird was sent to a female taxidermist in the east. Years later he visited her & she told him she still had the skin, un-

Cord

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Gymnogyps californianus

March 26, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

mounted. She gave him the specimen back & Appleton sent it to George Willett for the L.A. Museum. The wounded bird was kept for a week, and although apparently healthy would not eat squirrels or other food offered it. Then it was released & flew away. (Condors can go for a week without eating, it appears).

April 1, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

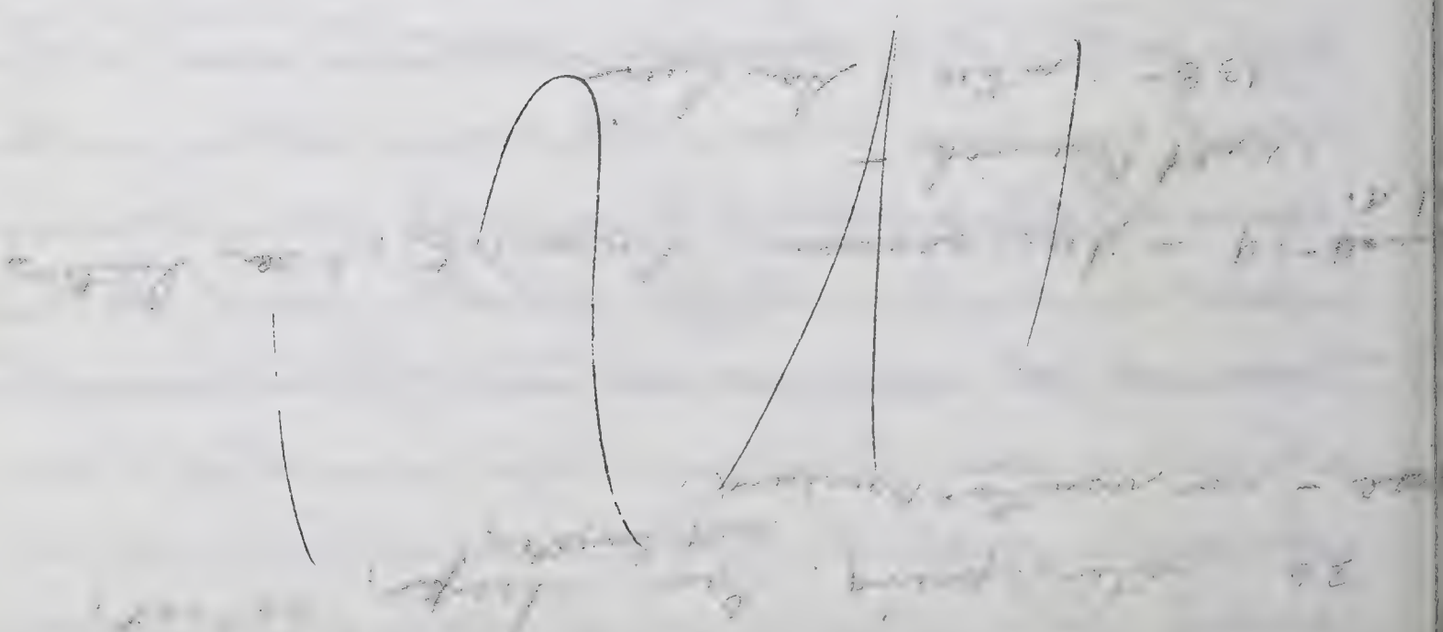
Conferred with Supervisor Brennen at F.S. headquarters. He has been on this forest since March 1. He seemed very interested in condors & wildlife. In 1928-29, he said, he saw condors many times in the Agua Caliente - Diablo area (?-where is that?). I told him of the proposition to close the Sapper Mtn. road & he was cagy about giving any answers or discussion on that subject. He said he believed Mr. Cravenmiller would be down in this area - perhaps not until June - & they would then like to view the Sapper Mtn. country. Until then, I gathered, Brennen was not in favor of taking any action. Visited then the Santa Barbara Museum & talked with C.E. Rett, Waldo Abbott, & director Coggeshall. Rett was anxious to get some condor photos this year. He gave me a photo

Id. 3 wlks.
25 yrs. - el, 20 in fur.
8'5"

Gymnogyps californianus

April 1, 1946 Santa Barbara, Calif.

of the dissected leg bones of the condor found dead by Carl Twiselman last year & a photo of the bird as collected. The bird had been dead about 3 weeks when collected (died about May 1, 1945) Rett said as the body had been seen on previous occasions. Wingspread was 8'5". Rett said that about 25 years ago when he came to this area he was told there were about 20 condors in the mountains back of Santa Barbara – of course few people went back there at that time. Visited Mary Erickson at S.B. College. The trip made by an ornithology class to Happy Rim (July 1941) was not too successful as some of the cars got stalled. Not over 2 condors at once were seen from the Rim though students from one car stalled in Pole Canyon reported seeing 4 circling. She believed Sid Peyton must have told her how to get to a condor observing spot & where to get a key to the gate (Mrs. ~~Brudello~~ Philips probably). Spent an hour or so in the evening talking with Henry Shebley & Willard Greenwald, game wardens, about condors & wildlife. Shebley said he had taken all the carcasses of ~~game~~ mammals he trapped for almost a year to Torrey Ridge south of Pixie for condor food. He killed a cow there once & condors fed on it – also sheep. Bobcat carcasses



Gymnogyps californianus

April 1, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

were much preferred to coyote, Shehley said. He said that normally even buzzards would not eat coyote carcasses. His impression was that the condors liked carcasses a little smelly rather than fresh. At one time in late spring he said he saw 26 over his scrap pile - mostly in the air - and took pictures of them with an 8 mm. movie camera. He gave the film away with the camera & projector when he sold it, he said. Once a horse was put out for bait & Bauland hid in a blind nearby - the condors paid no apparent attention to the bait. Greenwald said that he saw 19 condors over Liebre Mtn. in 19(?), & that deer hunters were shooting at them. He said he saw one in a tree in San Luis Canyon near Fallbrook or Pala in 1938 (San Diego Co.). Neither warden professed to know much of condors. Both are about 35 years old & fairly intelligent. Shehley said that he was impressed with the condor's keen eyesight as shown by the fact that often when he was at the foot of the grade looking up at Toney Ridge he saw no condors up there, yet by the time he got to the ridge top there would be from 2 to ~~30~~ 26 birds. He had seen not over 6 or 8 on the ground, feeding, at one time, he said.

Gymnogyps californianus

April 1, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

Sometimes condors would feed when he was only a couple of hundred feet away in his pickup, Shebley said. Greenwald had also seen condors in the Big Pine Mtn. area. He ~~thought~~ the birds were no longer in the Condor Sanctuary (Falls Canyon) area. Neither Shebley nor Greenwald had heard of anyone ever being arrested for shooting a condor or taking an egg. Greenwald thought Sid Peyton had a condor egg taken long ago - he had seen Sid's eggs but not a condor egg however. Shebley said ~~that~~ over Torrey Ridge became a favorite place for army fliers to practice, & he believed this activity caused the birds to leave the area. He & Greenwald both said they had seen condors at Oat Mtn. lookout (at E. end of Oak Ridge).

April 2, 1946 Ventura Co., Calif.

Sky 4/10 cumulus; warm spring day. I drove southward from Fillmore through Moorpark and Newton oaks. The rolling grassy country was largely planted & but few cattle were seen. I drove thru Calabasas & down Old Topanga Canyon to visit W. Lee Chambers on Robinson Road. He gave me his egg list & ~~condo~~ letters regarding eggs for my use. About the Santa Monica Mtns. he said ~~that~~ two years ago about April 1, he and his wife saw 2 near Tapia Ranch. These

Gymnogyps californianus

April 2, 1976 Topanga, Calif.

birds, he said, stayed about for several days. Mr. Appleton of Simi also saw condors in this region not long ago, Chambers said. The earliest egg record (april 1854), as recorded in the files, was of an egg from Santa Monica Mtns. The locality Tulareitos is near the junction of highway 101 with Ventura-LA County line. This spot was the collectors headquarters. WLC has a letter in his files regarding this egg. Another egg was taken from Encinal Canyon the next one E. of it near Lechusa Point near the coast in S. Ventura Co.. a little girl collected this one it is said. Chambers believes condors have left Santa Monica Mtns. area because the food is gone (me too - also too "civilized"). The birds here are just visitors from the "Pine" country. Chambers had not heard of Truesdale's dislike of the Cooper Club because Chambers pronounced 2 eggs taken by Truesdale as phony (because of lack of rough texture, WLC said - there was much egg faking going on at that time too). These eggs were purchased by Thayer + then sent to WLC - the latter still believes they were not condor eggs. Chambers said these eggs were now at Harvard (white in color). WLC said he would take me to the

Cord

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 2, 1946 Topanga, Calif.

falls where condors used to bathe when I visited him when roads were better. Chambers said that Harvey Anderson of the county forestry dept. was keeping track of the condor reports from lookouts + others in the Santa Monica Mtns. Drove then to Encinitas to visit Ed Harrison. Ed says that Sid Peyton has told him he has a condor egg and has been offered $750 for it by Tufts of Canada. Stevens' (Larry) egg was really obtained from an old collector in Martinito for $25 Ed said, + Ed had offered him ~~$50~~ $50 for it on the spot. The National Geographic has a condor article written by A A Allen but no pictures for it. Pemberton has told Ed not to let them use any of his pictures for illustration. Ed wants to have some of his kodachromes printed in the N. G. or elsewhere + is worried about someone else beating him in this field. He has a poor opinion of Dan Bleitz + believes he is only interested in bird pictures because of the commercial angles. Ed ~~has~~ was nice to the old condor nest near the aqueduct that Jim Dixon knew of. Permission to go on the property must be secured from Dixon + Ed believes he can find the spot if Dixon will not go with me. Griffing Bancroft can be found at the Cuyamaca

Cuming

Violin Can - E. Penn - 1928

Saint. Pk. - summer '45. 1. - Corona KS

Warner HS - highest - 20

Palmer - good 20

May 15, 1st. 20'

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 2, 1946 Encinitas, Calif.

Club in San Diego after 10 a.m. any day, Ed said - he is deaf but not impossible to talk to by any means. An Andean Condor had been successfully hatched at San Diego zoo last year, Ed said. The birds laid an egg every other year. Belle Benchley could give me the information he believed.

April 3, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

At San Diego Court House talked with Mr. Ewing who is in charge of wildlife on the Cleveland Forest. Mr. Fisher is supervisor. Showed Ewing & others some condor photos. He said he had seen one condor near Santiago Pk. last summer, circling overhead. In 1928 or thereabouts in the Pine area, especially at the head of Violin Canon & Canton (?) Canyon on E. side of the Pine he said he saw condors many times & sometimes on the ground. Condor reports are sent to San Francisco, he believed. I promised to send some prints for lookout instruction purposes. ~~He believed the~~ He thought that Palomar Mtn. lookout or the one near Warner Hot Springs might also be good watching spots. The forest would probably be closed in part this summer. Some lookouts - including Santiago Pk. - would be manned by May 15. Corona was ranger station for Santiago Pk. area & I could

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego Calif.

get permission there to enter the forest when it was closed. Ewing seemed very interested & considerate. I did not meet the supervisor. Went then to the zoo in Balboa Park to see the South American condors. Arrived at the cage at 11:25. Label read "South American Condors. (Vultur gryphus). Largest of the vultures. Wingspread 9 to 11 feet. Only male condors have combs. The young male hatched here, June 1942.(?) Only condor ever raised in a zoo." The birds were in a flying cage about 100 ft. long. Both adults were perched on highest artificial rock point at upper end of cage & the immature (or) was perched flat on its breast 15 ± ft. lower. The imm. was faded brown in color with black secondaries (adults' white on upper surface). Comb was already well developed on immature. I saw an adult take off several times, fly the length of the cage & land halfway back, then climb the rocks to the high perch again. The flapping was definitely more rapid than that of Gymnogyps & the climbing of rocks much more sure. Vultur walked with the spring of a boxer & at a good speed (frequently nearly running) compared to Gymnogyps and was much more adept at climbing rocks without flailing its wings on the rock or slipping. With each certain ~~action~~ of springing up a rock step the adult (♀) gave a low pig-like grunt (heard many times

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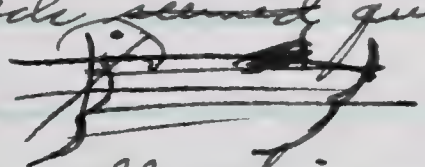
Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (200), Calif.

but only with the spring). This grunt was audible 60+ feet away. I saw the imm. peck at heads of both adults on several occasions & wrestle heads with them ~~violently~~ violently (more violent than Gymnogyps). The imm. forced ♀ adult backward from the ~~leg~~ ledge upon one occasion. Imm. climbed rocks well but had a generally soft look to plumage. Adults frequently held bills open for several seconds as if to pant or yawn (a cool day ~~so probably not panting~~ but or breathing fast from exertion). Imm. too opened bill wide several times before taking off on a short flight. ~~Iris of~~ Iris of adult ♀ red, imm. & ♂ adult brown. A second time I saw imm. force the ♀ from perch – no later retaliation. At 11:58 the ♂ took off after long pausing with wings outspread. At ♀ imm. also grunted when springing up the rocks. These birds seem to flap much more stiffly than Gymnogyps – nearly 5 flaps per second I timed. ~~About~~ 30 or 4 landing flaps are taken by these birds. Saw ♂ drive ♀ adult from highest ledge once. In perching the curve of the neck ~~seemed~~ was quite distinct from the "crop" bulge –  I did not see these birds puff their cheeks as ~~to~~ Gymnogyps often does. Head appears ~~to~~ less elongated than Gymnogyps and broader, & neck somewhat

Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (zoo), Calif.

thicker. Sometimes the ventral cervical apteruim was visible as a continuous bare area from neck to "crop" area. Crop patch nearly white in these birds. The imm. was evidently the poorest flier of the 3 & frequently struck branches of the Eucalyptus graving in the cage when landing. The ♀ adult made many circuits of the cage as described but ♂ & imm. flew down to the lower perches & pool edge without soaring around the corner as the ♀ adult did. Back & black upper wing covert feathers were much blacker in adults of Vultur than in Gymnogyps. Tails were spread wide when landing. Head color of imm. dark like Gymnogyps though down neck fuzzy more brownish & lighter gray. Size of imm. similar to Gymnogyps though head shape different - bill, especially the lower mandible, larger than G. & "double chin" quite pronounced. Necks seemed to be longer than G. but this appearance may be due to lack of the hackle-like ruff. Preening similar to G. I saw one adult scrape the side of its head on the rock as if to scratch. Adult ♂ drank, wading into 4± " of water & lifting head up after each dip as if to look about. V. seems broader across the back than G. - perhaps because they

Eat - quant

Feed mm.

age adults - rest eggs.

Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (200), Calif.

habitually carry the wings a little out from the body. The loose skin ~~at below the~~ at the shin is of course much greater than in G., hanging down ~~2-3~~ 2-4 inches and flapping around with each head movement. Imm. did not have this. One reason for the ~~SA.~~ success of V. over G. is ~~that~~ V. is a better flier in tight places & better ~~at~~ at scrambling up the rocks (judging from zoo birds). Bill gaping - probably used for ~~yawn~~ yawn, belch (?), panting, & apparently often preliminary to ~~takof~~ takeoff. ♂ was pink above the furry white ~~ro~~ ruff & had a ♀ of skin about 1" long on neck in line with ruff on dorsal surface. ~~By~~ I watched until 10 a.m., then visited Mrs. Belle Benchley, director of the zoo. She said that the Andean Condors had laid an egg in 1942 and 1945. Both times the egg was broken by the birds & a second laid & hatched. The nest was a cavity in the large flying cage on level ground. These caves were built of rough cement blocks & this one contained a log. The entrance was hidden from view of persons outside the cage. The first egg hatched on July 8, ~~1946~~ 1942, ~~52~~ 57 days after it was found by Carl Koch, the bird

Egg in cuc.

2 yrs land. 1 ~~&~~ broke each time. near shore.

'42 & '45

9 July hatched - 57 days - 1942 - to Nat'l Zoo - to spring - obj. to band male - not seen feed by mother but by father - at later stage begging soon after eat & begging on ground & imm. pecked up & ate. Both ad. begging on ground. Out of cave lost now a 1st Dec. Both incub. about even. No nesting material. Little again hatching

7 wks - all down - head dun, bigger out, & grunted. Jan 7 - out (6 months) some time. Down shanks & around neck. Same to Ontario. Cal. Can.

Egg white & larger goose egg size

Imm pecked near ♂ (pict.) when display.
♂ & ♀ back short. ♀ runs to ♂ when displ.
Face & neck get red. Head down like bass viol.
wings

(Photo BE Kirpatrick 3605 4th Ave, SD.)

McKenney Photo - 7 wks imm.

Van Pelt Photo - Jan 7, 1943 - 6 months old.

1929 - father came - from Hagenbeck Zoo - just getting color white. ~~♀~~ (about 2 or 3, no fuzzy, white ruff)

1934, ♀ - about 1½.

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (200), Calif.

keeper. The following spring the youngster objected violently to the "love making" of the adults. It was sent to the National Zoo at their request in summer. No egg was laid in '43. Both adults incubated the egg, taking turns quite fairly. The father was seen to feed the youngster often but the mother seldom or never. Feeding was by regurgitation. When youngster was fairly large the adults would regurgitate the food on the ground & the imm. would eat it. Both adults did this regurgitating. The chick came out of the cave the last of Nov. or first part of Dec. There was no nesting material - the egg was laid on the ground litter. One photo by McKenney (former photographer) showed the youngster at 7 weeks. At that time it was all dark down. Picture showed bird with head down & tongue out like Gymnogyps. Chick was down on its heels & was said to have grunted (Stott & Kirkpatrick said they never heard the young bird make a sound). Another photo by Norman Van Pelt (1034 8th St. San Diego) showed the youngster out of the nest on January 7, 1943. The bird was downy on legs & breast

horse, guinea p, rabbits.

Scaty when hatched, Downy head from start.

Calif condor - ate piece hose - 1st.

1911- several - betw. Peru + F.

1939- ~~Stock~~ - Buddy Cooper - 2.
2 in Kennel - Dallas Co. Texas

♂ makes pup-pup noise in display;
breast puffed out - waddles side to side
& turns around.

Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (Zoo), Calif.

then & appeared much like a young ♀. The egg was white & about the size of a large goose egg Mrs. Benchley said. Another photo by G E Kirkpatrick showed the imm. pecking at the back of adult when latter had wings out displaying. to Both ♂ & ♀ strut & hold wings out & head bent down but ♂ most. ♂ gets red in head & neck at this time. Kirkpatrick & Stoll said the ♂ makes a ~~p~~ fast pup-pup ~~pab~~-pup sound at the same time & drags tail on the ground. When ♂ starts to display, ♀ comes to him quickly & responds. Wings in photo are out about ⅔, tips not back as often in G.. Head is down "like a bass violin" Benchley said. About the adults: father came from Hagenbeck Zoo (Berlin) in 1929. It was just getting white on the back then so was probably 2 or 3 years old. Ruff was white & feathers not fuzzy. In 1934 the ♀ was obtained from Ecuador - it was about 1½ years old then Mrs. Benchley judged. The birds are fed horse meat & occasionally a rabbit or guinea pig - about 3 lbs. for the condor as near as the keeper could judge tho of course other birds & cats in the cage clean it up too. When hatched the imm. was sooty

15 yrs.

1 atop Sierra Juarez - about 10 yrs ago

1 at Lawson's Lagoon

1 young shot at.

30 yrs - Santa Mary - son

Ltr from Mex stat Nat
A. T & Tem. Expl

Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego (200), Calif.

colored & had the male comb. The head was feathered from the start, Benchley said. The Calif. Condor which the zoo once had was very playful - a regular pet. It died from eating a strip from a rubber hose the keeper left in the cage. Mrs. Benchley said that in 1911 she & her husband saw several condors between Piru & Fillmore. Met Ken Stott & GE Kirkpatrick, the museum photographers (about 26 years old I judged). Stott said he saw 2 condors in Baldy Canyon near Claremont in 1939, the same year that 2 were reported from the Addlwild (sp.?) country near Hemet. They said that the ~~birds~~ condors puffed out their breasts during display but ~~no~~ did not puff the chokes or necks. The noise of a movie camera caused them to stop displaying. The condors were quite vicious & attacked the photographers. Keirkpatrick said that when he was outside of the cage with 79 schoolchildren the ♀ had flown at him & struck the side of the cage. Stott was bitten in the leg by one. In the display the birds waddled from side to side, walked back & forth, & occasionally turned around, they said. The second egg hatched ~~on to~~ about 13 June (found 16

Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

June 1945). The youngster was out of the cave well before Christmas Mrs. Benchley said. The condors pay no attention to the house cats, caracaras, red tailed hawks, or other animals in the cage I observed. Visited Mr. Griffing Bancroft at the Cuyamaca Club (Union Bldg.) where he was playing cards & asked him about condors in Lower California. He said that in the last 20 years he had heard of but 3 - 1 at Hanson's Lagoon, an imm. shot at ~~near~~ Hanson's Lagoon about 15 years ago, & 1 atop Sierra Juarez (about 10 years ago). His wife had not told him of ~~seeing~~ seeing any though she had done much work in Lower Calif.. I asked him about condors in San Diego County - the last he had heard of, he said, was one about 30 years ago on Santa Margarita Ranch seen by his son. He ~~aff~~ affirmed that he was not trying to put me off but that the above were the only records he had of condors recently.

Reference from Ed Harrison's library: "A Study of the Incubation Periods of Birds" by W H Bergtold. The Kendrick-Bellamy Co., Denver, Colorado. 1917.

p. 21, ~~wts~~ ~~of bro.~~ wt. of Calif. Vulture, 320 oz. avoirdupois avg.. Authority "Beebe - Bull. N. Y. Zool. Soc., Jan., 1909, p. 466.".

p. 33, wt. of egg of Calif. Vulture (estimated by W.H.B.)

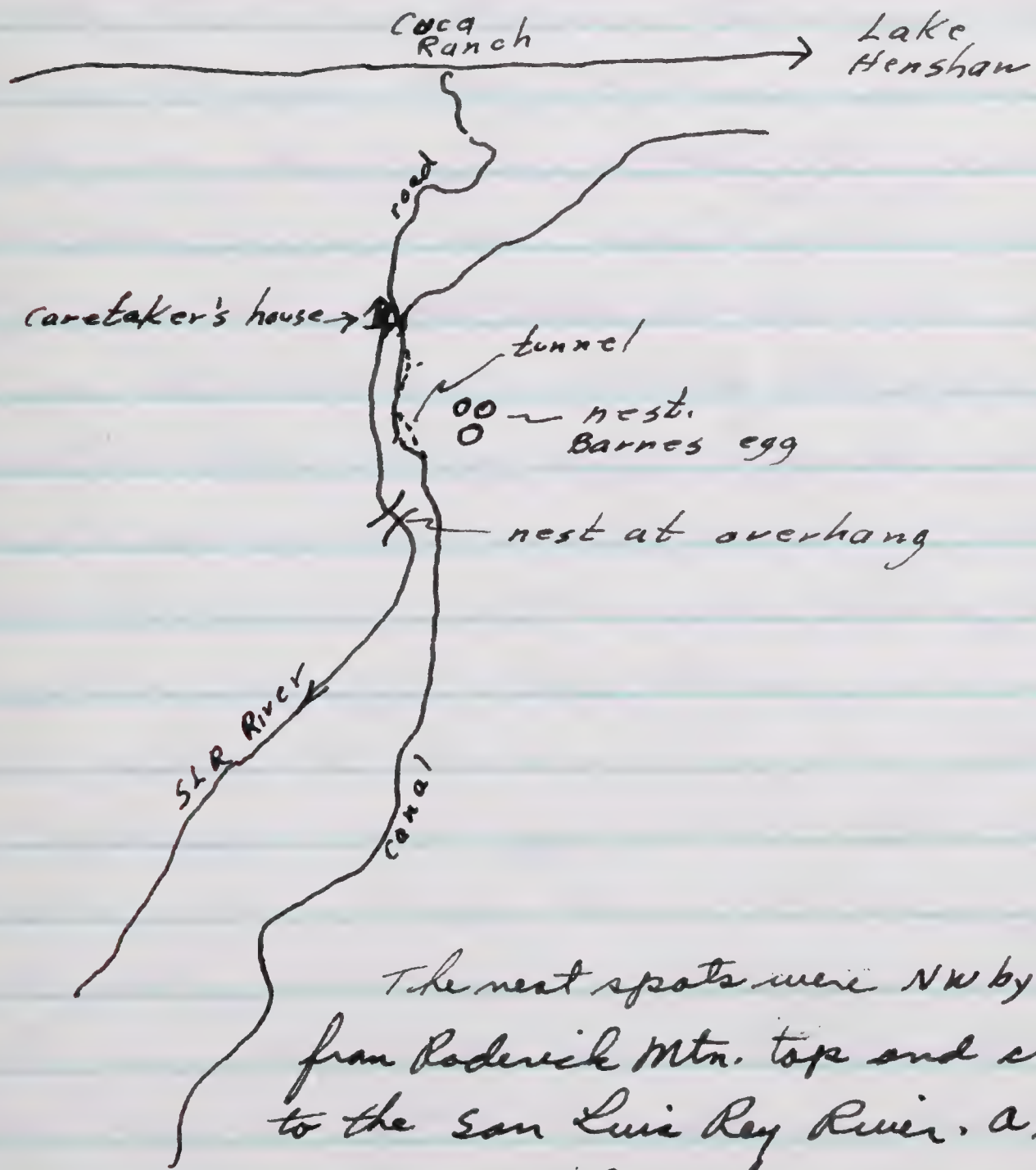
Gymnogyps californianus

April 3, 1946 Encinitas, Calif.

10.90 oz., authority "Knowlton, Birds of the World, 1909." p. 7783, incubation period, 29 to 31 days, authority "Evans - Ibis, Vol. III, p. 52."

April 4, 1946 Escondido, Calif.

Drove to Escondido & talked with J B Dixon about condors. Dixon sketched me the location of old nest on the San Luis Rey River as below:



The nest spots were NW by N from Roderick Mtn. top and close to the San Luis Rey River. A locked gate bars the road to caretaker's house - Dixon will lend me a water company (Escondido Mutual) key to get thru this gate. One can hike down the canal from

Gymnogyps californianus

April 4, 1976 Escondido, Calif.

there. At one point one must hike around a tunnel, & it was up the hill from this that an egg was taken under some ladders. This egg was at San Diego for some time & was purchased by Barnes around 1912. This egg is probably at the "Chicago Museum".
The last condo seen in that area was seen by Dixon in 1910 - it was flying into a narrow canyon across the river from the caretaker's house (on E. side river). Dixon's father had a homestead near this area in the old days. Around 1898, J.B.D. said, condors could be seen every day. Apparently they fed on cattle at the ~~Ga~~ Guajigo (sp.?) ranch which was still there which was an old grant which included Roderick & Pine Mtn., ~~and~~ S. to near Lake Wohlford, & N. to the La Jolla Indian Reservation. Dixon tells of seeing buzzards standing around a cow carcass on this ranch. He walked close & heard noises inside the corpse. Thinking to get a coyote or bob cat, he kicked the carcass, & out came a condor - the bird had a "hard time" taking off, Dixon said. Only 1 egg had been taken from that area as far as Dixon knew (the Barnes egg). Another nesting place was near a narrow place in the river on the E. side near where the water undercuts the bank so that bank overhangs. Duck hawks & eagles nest near there now. Another supposed nest was at the west end of Palomar Mtn., but Dixon did not know its location. The condors seen nearest

Gymnogyps californianus

April 4, 1946 Escondido, Calif.

the coast were up San Mateo Creek (N.E. of San Onofre). "They" used to camp on the coast and hike up these canyons, returning to the camp in the evening. Condors were seen in 1907 or 1908 by Dixon in that area - he considers it a possible place for a nest. It is now in Camp Pendleton (Marine Corps Camp). Dixon has heard occasional reports from the desert side but questions their ~~outh~~ authenticity. Ralph Dixon (J B's son) ~~has~~ works on the ranch near Escondido. He said he questioned officials at Borego Park recently re condors - they knew of none in that area. Around Escondido Jim says condors were always rare - he only recalled seeing one, even in the old days. Dixon thinks there may still be condors in the Roderick Mtn. area. About the Finley & Bohlman nest Dixon recalls the following: this nest was found by Philip Ringer who was doing some geological work & saw the adults feeding a flightless immature in a tree in Eaton Canyon in December 1904 (as J.B.D. recalls). Ringer still lives in the Los Angeles area - an engineer or adjuster in Maryland Casualty Co. as J.B.D. recalls. Dr. J Grinnell would not believe the story because condors were infrequent in the San Gabriels even then. Dixon went to the place & saw the birds. ~~The location~~ A policeman shot

Gymnogyps californianus

April 4, 1946 Escondido, Calif.

a condor there ~~saw~~ shortly afterwards & the papers carried quite a bit of publicity on it (against the shooting). Apparently the nest was not searched for in 1905 because it was believed one of the pair had been killed - ~~Dixon~~ Dixon thinks the shot one was the youngster. Dixon said the young bird could climb the tree using bill to help in Dec. 1904 - the bird was apparently flightless & was seen being fed by the adults, however. In 1906 Finley & Bahlman went up to try to find the nest. They had decided it must be on the steep south side of the canyon. Dixon talks as if he were with them. They fired off a shotgun from the N. side of the canyon & the adult flushed from close below them (the gentle side of ~~at~~ canyon) from under a boulder. Dixon believed he had heard the adults hiss at times. Van Rossem knows where the old nest site is & has visited it. It is about 1½ miles above the falls & in the old days was ~~quite an easy~~ not a hard hike. Dixon thinks the Volcan & Santa Rosa ranges condor possibilities ~~possibilities~~ but knows of no records there. In Lower Calif. he thinks condors as rare as here. ~~about 1~~ In 1942, about February, Dixon says he saw one imm. condor near ~~on it~~ the San Luis Rey near the mission flying NW. ~~Jim Dixon Ralph~~

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 9, 1946 Escondido, Calif.

Dixon knows birds well & has collected eggs but had heard or seen of no condors in recent years. I drove through Fallbrook and Elsinore on up to Corona, Pomona, & Pasadena. The E. side of the Santa Anas is steep & brush covered with occasional rock outcroppings & conifers atop the highest ridge. Roughest area was west of the Temescal district - near Trabuco Pk. area. For all practical purposes it appears that the condor is only a straggler south of Ventura County although occasionally a pair may nest in the San Gabriels, Santa Anas, or along the San Luis Rey River. It is not easy to conceive of condors crossing from the San Gabriels to the Santa Anas although it might be done gliding at high altitude or working to the San Jacinto area & back to the Santa Anas. Perhaps then ~~one or~~ at least one ~~pair~~ pair ~~a few pairs~~ more or less resident in the Santa Anas & another in the ~~or~~ San Pedro Martir. A few condors could easily escape notice for long periods - comparatively large numbers in the Los Padres ~~for~~ Forest are rarely seen feeding or perched close enough for good observation (except at a few ~~some~~ restricted roosts). In the Elsinore area I saw a few dairy cattle - the lack of food on the plains east of the Santa

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April 4, 1946 Pasadena, Calif.

Anac is conspicuous — much more food on the west slopes I believe.

April 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Drove up Pole Canyon road leaving Fillmore at 2 p.m. Fog at about 4500 ft. level and occasional sprinkling rain. Met T. Work & H. Hill at Parking Place. They had procured a bull calf near Saticoy (for $3) and placed the fresh carcass in Big Meadow near the blind there. They said they had seen what they took for 2 condors in the Big Cove area & possibly two others in trees. They had seen no condors nearly. Earlier in the day it had sprinkled & occasionally been foggy. They had visited the old horse carcass at head of Hopper Canyon & flushed a few ravens & turkey vultures from it. The fog closed in & light rain commenced about 3:30 p.m. Hill & Work drove down to Fillmore & Santa Monica. I went to camp at head of Hopper Canyon. It rained & fogged. About 5:30 p.m. I visited the old horse carcass. There was a 12± " opening in back of head & neck, an 18± " hole around anus, & two 4± " holes in abdomen. The thighs had been mostly consumed. Carcass still stunk muchly. There ~~was much~~ were many spots of whitewash about (100+) as from many

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April 6, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

ravens or buzzards. I found no condor evidence save what appeared to be one condor breast feather. Coyotes probably have fed here & possibly condors as well as the ravens & buzzards.

April 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Cumulostratus clouds at about 7000 ft. and fog coming up the canyon at 7 am. I drove to Old Cabin vicinity & watched #12 nest for about 10 minutes at 7:25-:35 - no activity. Drove then to near Pyramid L.O. Fog had engulfed Rim & higher clouds had descended to about 6000 ft. Temp. 54°F. ~~50°F.~~ I hiked to Big Meadow & observed the calf carcass near blind there. The calf was ~~about~~ a brown & white bull, originally perhaps 100 pounds in weight & was wired to two iron stakes. All the viscera were gone, many ribs cracked, the upper leg completely gone, & the lower thigh eaten. Head, neck, forelegs, & thorax were still intact. Tracks at the carcass included raven and cat (a very large bobcat it appeared). I visited this carcass at about 9 a.m, then returned to Rim which was still fog engulfed at 10 a.m. Light W. breeze. At 11 a.m. I was at Old Cabin. The cloud bottom was just above Rim level there & I saw two condors atop cliff at Big Cave and an adult with feet down, approaching #11 nest area. At 11:55 I was in Spring Canyon Meadow - sky cumulo-

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April 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

stratus at Rim level, fair SW breeze. There seemed to be a condor squatted in #12 nest cave, ~~head & fist lady showing~~ This egg is sheltered from above by an overhanging rock which protrudes 4± ft (overhang cave). At 12:20 I saw two circling & rising over North Point. I timed 3 circles of one at 17, 18, & 19 seconds. At 500±' alt. they flew glided toward Old Colin, just under & sometimes in base of ~~cloudt~~ cloud. At 12:35 I saw one adult perched atop Flat Pa. Occasional sunshine through cloud breaks. Turkey vultures soared with great steadiness near the foregoing circling condors. By 12:40 the perched adult gone. 1:05 I saw one circling ½± mile NE of North Point. This increased to 3 by 1:10. One spiraled near North Creek falls, feet down, but then resumed flight near North Point with feet up. 1:20 one circling over Arundell Ridge & 1 adult perched ~~there~~. 1:30, 3 soaring over Arundell Ridge. One adult alighted atop a rock outcropping about 200 yds. W. of Saddle Pa. & a second landed there (with 6 flaps) about 30 sec. later. ~~Occa~~ Sporadically lightly. One of these displayed, head ↑ 25, wings ↑ ↑ 11, tail dragging but not spread. The displayer walked slowly & 10±' away from other, then back, then out again. The displayee backed away when approached &

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April 7, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

perched at head of displayer. About 1:33 ~~both~~ one took off & 5± sec. later the other. ~~One~~ The first alighted in Saddle Ps., the second in a green Ps. 300± yds. further E. atop Arundell Ridge. The former was off again ~~within 30± second~~ by time second had landed. I saw at least 2 others perched on Saddle Ps. - clouds dark & solid just below Rim level - occasional sprinkling, fair SW breeze. The threatening rain may have driven the condors to ~~roost~~. I was watching from center of Spring Canyon Meadow. 1:45, 4 perched atop Arundell Ridge - 2 each in two green Ps. about 1/4 mile W. of #11 nest (possibly turkey vultures). Returned to Old Cabin. Rim continued engulfed in cloud layer - fog & drizzle. I returned to camp at head of Hopper Canyon.

April 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

I was about to leave camp at 8:15 when I saw 3 condors circling in the vicinity of the old horse carcass (about 200' above). About 8:17 I saw 4 birds perched on a rock ledge ~~100± yds~~ 50± yds. S. of carcass - there may have been turkey vultures - and about 5 condors over North Ridge. (I thought I counted 13 condors, about 5 perched, but changed my mind when I got a better view later) Thinking that the condors were about to feed on the horse carcass, I drove to a point on the road about 1/2 mile E. of the horse carcass. From there at 8:35 I saw two turkey vultures & 2± ravens on the carcass. Two

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April 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

imm. condors ~~circled~~ circled 100± ' over carcass & vicinity until 8:45 then worked S. ~~down the~~ over the canyon. The early rising of the condors may well have been caused by the fogged-in conditions of last 2 days. Sky 3/10 cumulus, temp. 52°F., breeze light or absent. One adult which soared nearly at 8:17 had a slot in center of right secondaries, a space in tail (2), & a #8 primary missing. ~~At~~ Car got stuck in mud, so I set out for #11 nest via ~~##~~ #1 nest & Hopper Creek. At 9:10 I saw one adult circling just N. of Hopper Canyon. It had a slot in center of secondaries of both wings & a #3 primary missing. 9:15 - saw same or another there (300± ' alt.). ~~Started~~ down the canyon. At 10:15 I saw 1 condor overhead. 10:25, I was below #12 nest in creek bottom. I saw no activity at the hole. ~~Bottom~~ Cliff for about 2' below hole conspicuously whitewashed. 10:30, I saw 1 overhead. Cloudiness increased to about 7/10 by ~~11:15 a.m.~~ At 12 m. I was below #11 nest cave I had seen no condors in the vicinity. I climbed the cliff and entered cave about 12:20 — the egg was gone but 3 fragments of shell (about ½" square each) showed that it had been destroyed rather than "collected". The points outside the cave were clean of whitewash so the destruction must have occurred some time ago. I

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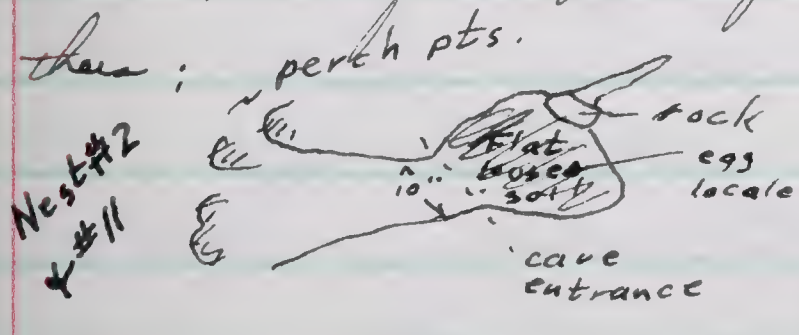
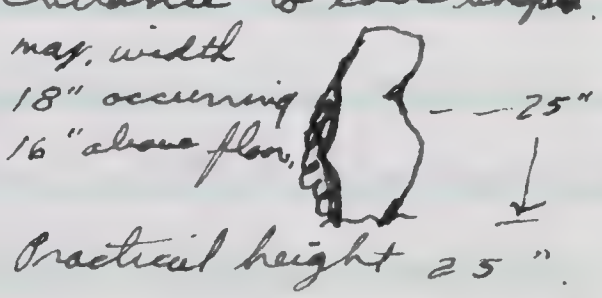
April 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

found 2 scats, black, one about ~~[illegible]~~ 3" long on the cave floor. No acorns or other rat evidence here. I collected a 12± bone fragments of apparently old age from the cave floor. There were two damp spots - possibly from excreta. The whole interior of this cave bears old whitewash to about 20" above the floor. The upper portions are pink - possibly an alga ~~that~~ thrives on excrement. Thus I believe this to be a much used cave. The failure of this egg may explain the mating displays I have seen near this cave after egg was found. Cause of destruction: possibly ravens. Perhaps adults broke it. Perhaps my March 3 visit kept the birds off too long & egg addled - very doubtful, else they would still be incubating a whole egg. No rocks larger than about 2" long on the floor & of possibly recent origin - ~~is~~ the fall of a small rock from the 4' high ceiling might break or chip the egg, however. There were 3 or 4 squirts of old ~~tabac~~ tobacco or oil colored excrement on the walls. The floor plan of this cave is about thus:



Entrance to cave shaped:



From cave entrance to rear (near rock) - 49". I then investigated the slope starting 30± ' below the nest cave

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April 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

and found most of the egg including the membrane still crawling with maggots & quite juicy. The egg had apparently been crushed but showed no evidence of raven or mammal attack. There were some bones up to 3/4" long - the embryo no doubt - ~~so age~~ so incubation ~~had~~ was well started when the accident ~~occurred~~ occurred. I suspect that the adults broke it somehow. Left the nest area about 2 p.m. & returned up Hopper Creek to head of canyon and base camp. At 3:30 I saw 2 (probably adults) perched on one bare ~~branch~~ branch of a green Ps. on Arundell Ridge & another (imm.?) perched ~~also~~ on top limb of flat Flat Ps., 100± yds. E. of the pair. Reached #1 nest area about 5 p.m. Flushed 6± ravens from the old horse carcass.

April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Hiked from base camp to a point on the road about 1500 yds. W. of #12 nest and 1000 yds. SW of the horse carcass. From there I could also view Arundell Ridge, Big Mdw., & Hopper Mtn. At 8:15 I was set for observation. Sky 3/10 cirrus, faint breeze, about 56°F. At 8:25 I saw 6 condors circling just W. of Condor Cliff. At 8:30 I saw one flapping low over Arundell Ridge & counted 9 total in air. At 8:31 I saw 2 (one chasing other) low over Arundell Ridge, 2 over the SE Rim, & 4 others circling 500± ' over Arundell Ridge. At 8:35 counted 8 - 2 alighted atop highest tree on

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April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Arundell Ridge. With telescope I saw 3 on this tree + 1 on Flat Pa., 100± ' away. One of the 3 took off - the branch shook violently + other bird on that branch raised + flapped wings to balance. 8:38 I saw 14 total - 12 in air scattered from SE Canyon to Spring Meadow + 2 perched on Arundell Ridge. One circled 300± ' over old horse carcass. 8:41 one adult flap glided up the canyon to near North Creek, then flap circled using 4 - 12 flaps consecutively, rising with the flaps, then gliding, the net result being an altitude gain. 8:45, I saw one adult atop a point 100± yds. S. of the horse carcass. This bird held wings up V as if about to take off. It then flapped down near the horse. I caused some disturbance then breaking brush + getting telescope ready for observation of that area. 8:55 saw an adult on the point S. of horse again + a few seconds later it was gone. It is probable that both yesterday + today my presence, even at a distance, prevented condors from feeding on this carcass. Saw 2 condors + 3 turkey vultures circling over White Cliffs, 3 circling over Old Cabin, 3 over Big Mdw., 1 over Spring Canyon Mdw., 2 over Arundell Ridge. 9:00, saw 7 scattered from over horse carcass to Old Cabin. Two were very ragged having gaps in secondaries on both sides + at least 1 primary on both sides (#6 on one). 9:07, one circled above #1 nest, 2 over N. Rim, 2 over Big Mdw., 2 perched (one on Flat Pa., one on higher Pa. 100± ' away), 1 near Hopper

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April 9, 1996 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Mtn. (8 total). 9:10, one stage higher Ps. did a wind bow + took off. One gone from Flat Ps. to (I believe) the high Ps. It walked over to other, flapping (imm. to adult?). 9:13 the last one took off from Arundell Ridge - none left perched. One adult skimmed by 100± from me. 9:15, saw 1 in dead Ps. at head of Parking Canyon - stayed at least 1/2 hr.. 9:20, 1 circling over N. Pt., 1 in head of Pyramid Canyon, 1 over White Cliff; 9:23, 3 over Old Cabin + 2 over E. end of Arundell Ridge. 62°F.. 9:27, the 3 were 100± over me. One was a near adult with tip of #4 left primary missing; one an imm. with #3 primary out each wing; one an imm. with large gap in left secondaries. These decreased to 2 & circled within 1/2 mile of me until 9:39. 9:40, 1 adult circling over White Point. 9:45, an imm. circled close over me (#3 left primary out). 10:06, 2 over Old Cabin. 10:08, 1 adult close over me. 10:27, 2 adults soared 100± over me, then toward N. Pt., then circled back toward me & flew glided W., each giving one dip while wings flapped. 10:40, 2 adults over me without pausing to circle - one had a gap close to body on right side. These came from White Point area & I saw a third flapping from that direction. Light breeze, sky 3/10 cirrus, 66°F. 10:55, saw 2 about 300' over Old Cabin; they flew glided W. into Sespe drainage. From 11:18 to 12:53 I witnessed an episode of "house hunting". At 11:18 I saw 1 adult alight in a small

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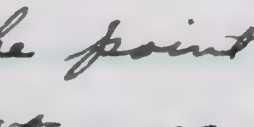
April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

(18±") pothole about 200 yds. S. of & one ledge below North Creek Falls. A second adult landed 20± away, then took off & alighted in the same hole. Ravens perched & flopped within 4 or 5 ft. of the condors. At 11:21 one adult took off. The remaining adult stood in entrance & twice thrust the neck out to snap at a raven hovering close. At 11:23 the second took off and alighted in a 6±' long pothole about 100 ft. further down the canyon in same big ledge and adjacent to a water trickle on the rock face. The first adult was already in this hole. The heads were close together much of the time, sometimes close to the floor. Perhaps they pecked at one another's head. At 11:45 one displayed for about 1 minute. The displayer waddled from side to side as it walked back & forth, toward & away from the other unresponsive adult. Head ↓ as usual & ruff down. 11:51 both took off within about 10 seconds & soared over North Point. They put feet down when 100± over the point & circled down to near the same hole. At 11:58 they landed in a similar hole 100± yds. further S. on the cliff & at same level – this hole was well whitewashed and about 20 ft. from a green lo. 

. This hole was about 1/4 mile N. of #12 nest & in next lower ledge.

Here again the adults stood a long time, heads close

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April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

together. At 12:03 an imm. soared over me - 12:05, it was 100± ' over horse carcass. 12:10, 2 over w. with Cliff. 12:12, the 2 about 500' over horse, 1 with feet down. Apparently they passed up this food. At 12:20 the pair was still in the pothole (OO) facing in, & at 12:40 the same. I saw 1 land atop Condor Cliff about ¼ mile S. of the cliff corner. There was much flapping - it appeared as if there may have been a mounting followed by mating display (long distance & heat waves interfered). Two left that spot abruptly at 12:45. 12:48 one in the pothole displayed for about a minute. Both went in the hole. Much heads together. 12:50, both facing out. 12:52, one off, & 12:53 the other. They skimmed past #12 nest & over North Point & glided down over North Slope. 1:08 I saw 2 circling together 500± ' above Arundell Ridge. 2:15, one circling 100± ' above ~~Ha~~ horse carcass. 2:18 two others from N. joined the one at 200± ' 2:21, one of the 3, an adult with ragged tail & secondaries & #5 left primary short (right missing) circled above me briefly. Other two disappeared. Sky clear; breeze faint or absent; 60° F. 3:05, 2 adults & an imm. soared E. over the Rim near me. One circled (2 circles, 15 sec. each). They rose over North Point area. One adult had feet down. Imm. had a slot in outer secondaries. Adult secondaries ragged. 3:07, 4 now - 1 glided toward Arundell Ridge

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April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

+ 3 toward White Point (where last). 3:10, 5, apparently from N., over N. Ridge area - 3 from Small Mdw. Pass joined at 3:14. Air calm. 3:15 - saw 2 more at about 5000' level beyond NE Rim. Most glided slowly toward Big Cave area. Saw one chase another, twisting in a fast glide. 3:19, 7 circling 500± above Big Cave area. 3:20 two adults circled over North Point, one with feet down. The soared past #12 nest & to vicinity of North Creek Falls (at cliff top level) then back over North slope (3:25). "Return time" about 3:15 today. 3:40, 4 circling over North Ridge and 1 over White Point. 3:45, I saw 7 circling at about +500' level & 3 over White Cliffs (10 total). 3:55, two adults over North Point descending southward. 4:00 - two (same?) headed W. over Old Cabin, circled & rose to 500±, then split up, one being over North Ridge at 4:07 & other ?. I walked toward Old Cabin to view Big Cave area. At 4:27 I saw 2 over Small Meadow Pass entering Hopper Basin + and at least 5 circling close to Big Cave. 4:38 I saw 2 perched on Whitewash Ledge, 1 atop cliff & 1 on ledge over Big Cave, 2 atop Roost Tree, & at least 3 circling near there. The two atop tree flew to cliff, one landing in potholes & 1 on an open ledge. I looked straight into #12 nest - sun was shining in & it was apparently empty. This fact plus seeing no activity there today while especially watching for it leads to the conclusion that the nest has failed. 4:45, at least 8

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April 9, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

perched at Big Cave area but frequent shifting. Saw an adult leave foot of pool. 4:55, at least 13 at Big Cave area & much shifting still - 1 atop Roost Tree, none at pool, 1 circling fast down, 5 on whitewash ledge, 2 on ledge over cave, 4 atop cliff (2, 2's). 5 p.m. - also 1 adult flat on top branch of Flat Pe. & another circling above West Ridge. Light breeze still, smoky haze in Sespe Canyon. So - at least 15 condors seen. Returned to base camp.

April 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

At 7:25 I was in car blind about 1/4 mile E. of the horse carcass. 3 ravens & 3 turkey vultures were feeding on the carcass at that time. Sky clear, fair E. breeze, very dry 54°F. 7:55, 6 ravens & 5-6 turkey vultures constantly at carcass - occasionally a t. v. pecked at a raven & drove it back. I saw 1 adult - then 2 adults & one imm. at 7:58 - over the Rim SW of carcass. They soared 100± ' above the brush & rocks to N. Rim, then cut back & skimmed 50± ' above rocks near the carcass (8:03). 8:09, the 3 skimmed 30± ' over the carcass, imm. especially close, but not down, imm. following the pair. 8:12, one adult alighted above the rock point about 50 yds. S. of the carcass, & imm. beside it. Ravens & t. v's continued feeding. The imm. bounced to edge of the cliff almost immediately & by 8:15 was (? - down near carcass?). Neither bird was banded. Adult stood alone, ruff up. A turkey

21- ch. edge, back

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April 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

vulture passed 10±' over the condor - condor gave a casual look at most. 8:21 the adult flapped about 10' to cliff edge & stood with feet wide apart & reared ~~preening~~ about in all directions. 8:23 imm. alighted 6±' from adult. Adult flapped down to carcass & walked to abdomen side. Pecked gingerly at abdomen, raising head between pecks. ~~So~~ Imm. down 6±' S. of carcass at 8:25. Ravens & one turkey vulture ~~&~~ continued to feed. 8:27 adult hopped atop carcass & 1 turkey vulture flushed from far side (only t. v. left). Ravens ducked momentarily. 8:28, adult & imm. ~~apparently took off~~ out of sight to w. of carcass. ~~imm. was already gone without having pecked at the carcass~~ One adult ~~Adult~~ flap-glided low over rocks heading N. into Pine drainage. ~~Apparently the adult took the hint & found it unsatisfactory.~~ Ruff was down while feeding. Adult was standing up, not on heels, while pecking at carcass (abdomen). 8:35 - must have been another adult skimming off - I saw adult & imm. walk into view near the carcass. 8:36, adult atop carcass on heels, reaching down to abdomen & pecking gingerly. 2 ravens about 4' from adult, feeding. Saw Ted Peyton's pickup ~~park about ½ mile~~ driving up the road w. of carcass ~~but after out of sight from it~~. 8:38, adult had pecked from abdomen side for 2± minutes, then hopped on top again. Peyton's truck arrived at my car with Sidney, Jr. and Leonard Peyton. They parked

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April 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

near me & walked over to my car in full view. The adult continued feeding. Peytons left at 8:48. Adult flushed about 8:51 - apparently frightened by truck - and soared S. down the canyon. Car was 1/4± mile from carcass. Buzzards had been soaring close over the adult but only ravens fed with the condor. The buzzards alighted a few seconds after condor left. Adult had been pecking at neck area from S. side of carcass when truck left me - adult had stopped feeding then. It did not circle back near carcass but went apparently straight down canyon. Whereabouts of the imm. unknown. 8:57, 2 adults soared 200± ' over the carcass - not the same pair as earlier today (one earlier adult had 2 gaps in right wing, #1 & 2 primary + another gap). 9 a.m. - 4 adults soared N. over Rim W. of carcass + joined the other 2 over N. Rim. The Peytons were probably hiking up the Rim W. of carcass by now. 9:04, the carcass crawling with about 10 buzzards and one fuzzy headed imm. condor stood calmly 10± ' away (same imm. doubtless). Adult + an imm. soared ~~200±~~ 100± ' over carcass. The imm. edged around the carcass at about 10' distance, hesitantly as if afraid to go in with the mass of turkey vultures. An adult condor soared 50± ' above the horse carcass (9:08). My view partially obscured so couldn't locate the imm. - not feeding, however.

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April 19, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

9:14, two adults flew glided 300±' over carcass heading E. The carcass monopolized by about 12 constantly shifting, flapping, jostling turkey vultures - about 6 ravens kept in the background by them. 9:30 - 67°F., fair E. wind. I had seen no more sign of the immature near carcass. 9:40 I again saw the imm. about 15' N. of carcass - a raven landed near it & imm. backed up. It seemed to be looking "hopefully" or "longingly" at the carcass. This imm. appeared to be a one year old bird - some white at tip secondary coverts. Apparently a young condor is below a group of turkey vultures in "peck order". 9:43, the imm. standing 10±' S. of carcass, facing it. Imm. ran at a raven which perched near it - raven retreated. about 5 buzzards & 5 ravens now on carcass - much quieter than before. 9:50 the imm. flapped 50±' W. of carcass - out of my sight behind bushes. 9:55 the imm. stood about 5' S. of carcass and danced around NW of it, then N. of it by 9:57. Wings up & flapped some in moving - flight apparently very easy on this east windy day - excellent soaring conditions it appears. 10:05 9:05, the imm. walked around near (E.) end of carcass & then out of sight. stood 10±' S. of it again; about 5 turkey vultures & 4 ravens still fed. 10:22 the imm. appeared 15±' to NW of carcass, then flapped atop a boulder about 20' W. of it, nearly "falling on its face" in landing.

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April 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

The underparts of this bird seemed quite downy - light areas (down probably) at tops of tarsi & on sternum - doubtless a 1945 youngster & smart enough to find some food by following adults. 10:28 a raven hovered over the youngster, swinging from side to side. The youngster wobbled from side to side with the raven and twice reached up with open bill toward the raven. 10:30, now only 3 ravens and 1 turkey vulture at the carcass. Imm. left its boulder perch (out of sight again). 10:38 all the birds left carcass - I saw two imm. condors in air close to carcass; they circled low over #1 nest camp, then down the canyon. The ravens were back on carcass within a few seconds. 10:41 I saw an adult soar down canyon via same route - perhaps it caused the alarm. I supposed the imm. had left carcass area. Turkey vultures back on carcass by 10:43. I went to the carcass & took photos of it. The neck & rear end were almost completely gone - the windpipe exposed. There were hundreds of flies on the carcass. About 12:00 the Peyton boys returned - they had not found the duck hawk nest at Whitacre Pk. nor seen any condors after leaving Hopper Canyon. We hiked down the road & along cliff tops to Big Cave top (arrived about 1:25). Condor tracks - thick in the wet sand there & the pool full & falls flowing. The tracks went back to about 75' from falls brink. We collected a set of duck

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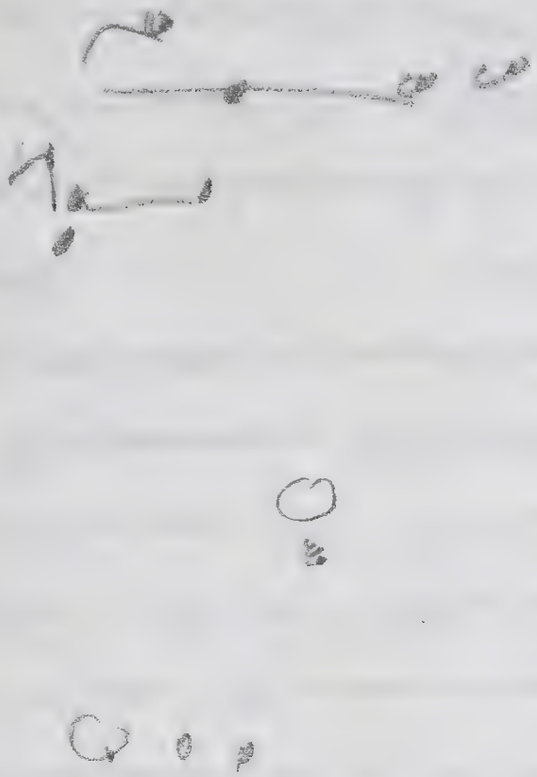
April 10, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

hawk eggs from W. face of the Condor Cliff, then returned to the falls (2:30). We saw 1 adult on Whitewash Ledge there. It took off when we were about 300' from it & walking parallel at 50± higher level - the adult soared straight down the canyon. At 2:35 we saw 3 adults and one ragged dark immature scattered overhead. We continued on up to road & drove to Fillmore. Met Ed Harrison near Pete Legan's & took him to Fillmore with me. At Pete Legan's met talkative old Herman Keene. He said that 50 or 60 years ago there were 4 large sheep ranches between the Sespe & Wheeler Canyon & that he had seen at least 100 condors then & that they roosted in Pine & Coldwater Canyon. He was going to set his traps near Whitacre Pk. - he said that he had caught 9 lions in all in that area. At 4:55 I saw 2 condors soaring E. over Pole Canyon near Oak Mtn. - a late return time but good soaring conditions might explain this.

April 11, 1945 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

With Ed Harrison drove to Parking Place on Hopper Rim. He had brought a stuffed doe deer - stuffed in lying dead position, with glass eyes - quite realistic looking - from Los Angeles. We placed this about 80 ft. N. of the blind in Big Meadow and wired it to a stake, then entered the blind at 2 p.m. We had seen no condors up to this time. A very clear day - and warm - with fair breeze E.

7:30

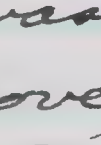


Gymnogyps californianus

April 11, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Of the calf Work & Hill put out ~~last~~ April 6, only one leg remained. The grass was somewhat trampled thereabout but there was no excrement or feathers to indicate that condors might have been there. Apparently good soaring conditions today. 67°F. at 3 p.m. There were a few flies on the doe for had placed the old calf leg under it. Sky 5/10 cirrus ~~cumulus~~ & breeze light by 4 p.m. At 4:15 I saw at least 2 condors soaring back & forth near Big Cave & alighting in potholes or on ledges there. We left blind at 4:30. At 5 p.m. from Old Cabin I counted at least 8 condors - 1 adult atop Flat Pe., two on Roost Tree, & the others on cliffs & ledges at Big Cave. Returned to base camp.

April 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Air calm, overcast with alto-stratus clouds. Neither sunshine nor wind - so poor soaring conditions presumably. We went to North Point to investigate the #12 nest cave there. At 8:15 I saw 2 condors on Roost Tree. Below the nest cave in the brush scattered over about 20 ft. I found fragments of the egg - about 1/3 of total or less. Also I found 4 bone pieces which may have come from nest. Finally descended to the cave but because of overhang could not get in. The entrance was about 18" wide at base, narrower above,  shaped. It was about thus in floor plan  , the max.

12:46

Gymnogyps californianus

April 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

imum depth being about 4 ft. The floor was level and mainly of fine rock chips rather than fine sand. Scattered on the floor was egg shell-fragments of about half an egg. I saw no rock which might have dropped on it. This circumstance indicates that the egg was broken in the nest - the same thing which happened to #11 nest. Found one wing feather below the nest and one on slope beside it. The cliff proved to be about 75 ft. high & the nest cave halfway down. At 9:45 we left the site (Ed Harrison & I). We saw 1 condor perched on Arundell Ridge then. Had seen none in air - but did see a few turkey vultures in very steady flight. By 10:30 a fair W. breeze. By 10:45 we were in the blind at horse carcass. I set out the stuffed doe about 100 ft. from blind on the open rocks about 20 ft. from the sterilizing horse. No ravens nor turkey vultures were at the horse carcass. By 12:00 sky hazy but not overcast overhead (about 9/10 alto cumulus), 56° F. in cave blind, fair breeze. 12:55, a black-billed magpie pecked at spilla of horse carcass. Earlier one raven pecked for a while. Both apparently frightened by camera noises. Neither gave the stuffed doe more than a glance. 1:38 - we saw two condors soaring about 1/2 mile SE & 300± ' above base level. 1:40 - 4 condors about 1/2 mile S -

Gymnogyps californianus

April 12, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

of carcass (5 at 1:41), circling. These condors - nor any others - did not come near carcass by 3:30. One turkey vulture flew close once but none alighted. I do not believe any condors saw the stuffed deer today. We left blind about 3:40 & drove to near Old Cabin. From there at 4:15 I saw at least 4 condors flying about the cliffs at Big Cave & at least one on ledge at same time (5 or + total). Saw 2 perched on Flat Ps. & a nearby Ps. also - so 7 total at least. Breeze still fair from W. & sky clear overhead. Returned to base camp.

April 13, 1946

Clear morning, light breeze by 7 a.m. - should be good soaring today. At 7:30 a.m. Ed Harrison & I were in cave blind at old horse carcass. We set the stuffed doe about ~~20~~ 30' SE of the horse. Two turkey vultures were perched in a tree ~~20~~ 100± yds. E. of horse carcass. Carcass was mainly maggots and slop inside now though hide still mostly intact. By 8 a.m. 4± ravens had pecked at horse carcass & 5 turkey vultures were perched about 50 yds. from carcass. 9:30 - one turkey vulture alighted close to horse carcass, but others left without approaching. The comparatively large number of turkey vultures, ravens, & some condors which fed or approached the horse car-

Ford

3013

Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

case a few days ago was probably caused by preceeding bad weather which prevented feeding & brought on hunger. We left blind about 10 a.m. About 10:10 I saw 4 condors soaring N. about 1/2 mile E. of horse carcass - 3 headed on toward the agua Blanca, the fourth turned back S.. We went to camp then drove down the road a ways then hiked to Big Cave arriving about 11:30. At 11:05 I saw one ~~near~~ over North Slope. At 11:30 ~~a~~ one was flap-gliding 300± overhead when a duck hawk attacked it. The duck hawk made 6 successive attacks from above the condor. The condor ~~mar~~ flap-glided fast toward Arundell Ridge & each time the hawk approached the condor twisted vertically, wings strongly flapped, so that side was presented to hawk. The condor snapped down immediately to level position after each twist - ~~fo~~ to the naked eye the motion looked like a complete "snap roll" but actually the condor did not turn over. The duck hawk desisted near Arundell Ridge. The condor flap-glided & descended parallel to Arundell Ridge. This action commenced about 3/4 mile NE of the duck hawk's nesting site. At 12 m. Ed & I were in my tent blind 100' SW of lip of falls above Big Cave. Sky was

Ford

3014

Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif

7/10 cumulus by then, the clouds having formed since 10 a.m. at about 6000 ft. level. At 1:05 one adult alighted on a ledge below Whitewash Ledge, + 3± min. later soared toward Roost Tree (not visible). At ~~+~~ 1:08 ~~and~~ an adult spiraled over us, feet down, + alighted on Whitewash Ledge. An imm. circled over Big Cave for 5± minutes then departed. The perched adult had cheeks puffed out (not neck) and ruff up high. Ed photoed this bird in 35 mm. About 1:40 this adult left + (same?) lit in a shaded pothole 40± ' below the former perch. The bird moved head every 5 sec. or less as if looking about. At 1:47 the adult took off as if toward Roost Tree. 68°F.

2:55, one imm. alighted atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge. It scratched head by squatting down + scrapping sides of head on rock several times. Two other immatures alighted 10± ' from the first — these nestled heads a bit. ~~Im~~ One imm. flew to cliff top above Big Cave, then back to group 2± minutes later. At 3:~~05~~ 07 there were 2 adults + 4 imm. within about 15' on the cliff top. Two imm. pecked at each others ruff + head as if playfully; adults preened; other imms. pecked at rock by their feet. One imm. off about 3:09 + landed atop cliff 50± ' N. of pool about 3:13, 3:18 a third adult alighted by other 2 - 3 adults + 3 imm. within about 15'

Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

and all quite calm. 3:20, one adult walked toward the immatures in the group + the 3 immatures & one adult took off (leaving 2 adults). One adult alighted near pool + 2 imms, in a single small potholes. The one near pool walked across the wet sand and about 4 ft. into the shallow (3±") water. It took 2± sips, then stood for 30± sec., then walked back toward cliff brink, out of the water, + stood looking about. The movie camera buzz seemed to make the adult attentive. At 3:30 the adult + imm. at pool (8± ' apart) took off. There was a general slipping about and at 3:31 only 1 (adult) remained atop the cliff while two potholes below Whitewash Ledge + the ledge over Big Cave were occupied. A frog had croaked loudly near the two at pool - no reaction noted in the birds. 3:40, the adult from atop cliff & one other alighted 40± ' apart on Whitewash Ledge; an imm. perched atop cliff above them. 3:42, one adult left ledge & alighted atop cliff - the imm. left as adult approached. 3:45 - one adult atop cliff, one on ledge, 1 in pothole - an imm. alighted atop cliff over Big Cave (4 total visible). Sun mainly obscured by clouds; fair but intermittent breeze. 3:50 - the imm. off - one seen circling ½± mile N. of Big Cave. The imm. approached; adult atop cliff took off & followed; the imm. alighted atop cliff (where adult had been);

9 ♂
17 - 24

4 - 5 dr.
both.
ad feath
displ

4 m w
mm. pech - stechm wat.
color - chin yelf, hind neck sunk,

fuzzy hel + ~~shape~~ chin.
in het - molar bow

5:15 - all but 5 - last left pool

5:20 - 13 rock
25 - 24 (11 mm. & 1.b.)

:35 - 26 (12 mm.)

:40 - 13 on w w L, 5 at. cl. ab.,

Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

adult landed there too flushing imm.. Another adult (4th) landed in a pothole 1/4± mile N. of Beg Cove - so at least 4 adults + 4 imm. present. 3:57, another (5th) adult spiraled in + landed in the same pothole already occupied by an adult - one of the two flew out 5± sec. later (5 ad. + 4 imm present). 4 p.m. - 5 adults + 3 imm. visible perched; 2 adults together atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge, 2 adults + 2 imm. on the Ledge; - then others came in + there was lots of action until 5 p.m. Until about 4:30 I counted 17 at once (9 adults, 8 imm.) and by 5 p.m., 24 (at least 11 imm.). Saw 2 or 3 adults and 5± imms. drink. Drinking was by nibbling 3± times at water, then bringing head up. One adult + 2 imm. took a fairly good bath. In bathing, the birds walked into the water up to heels, then squatted down with breast in water, laid head + neck in the water, + gave a sidesweep which threw water up on the back + half spread wings. Ed photed the bathing. The immatures pulled up some green grass but did not appear to swallow it. One imm., standing in 4± " of clear water, picked a 6± " long twig from the bottom of the pool, + carried it 5± ' in the bill as if playing with it. One adult tugged at an

5:50 - still tap cl, 15 on a wk & bet.
sens.

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

old primary, ~~tip~~ lying on the sand, holding the shaft down with its feet + tugging at shaft + web. An imm. did likewise with same feather later. The adult carried this feather 8± (across the pool) in its bill. Once I saw one adult display at another, walking away + toward, ~~tail~~ tail dragging but not spread - Ed got a few frames of this (16 mm.). At one time there were 4 imm. in the pool at once and 8 or 9 in or within 15' of the pool. The auto tent blind did not seem to disturb the birds - adults perched within 70' + an imm. within 50' ~~both do~~ at times + stayed for several minutes. I saw one or more "one year birds" - a chevron of white at tips secondary coverts + gray down at heels. Some red eyed immatures had no wing chevron at all. There were several "in between" or "near adult" birds - the heads of these were fairly solidly covered with black ~~on~~ but showing the adult coloration through the feathers - only the malar area seemed bare. Crown + occiput were feathered. These had the magenta spot ventrally on neck like adults. As to adult head coloration: the most reddish orange is on the rostrum. The chin area is most yellow. Occiput is yellow but

6:05-4 at. al, 13 w-L

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Gymnogyps californianus

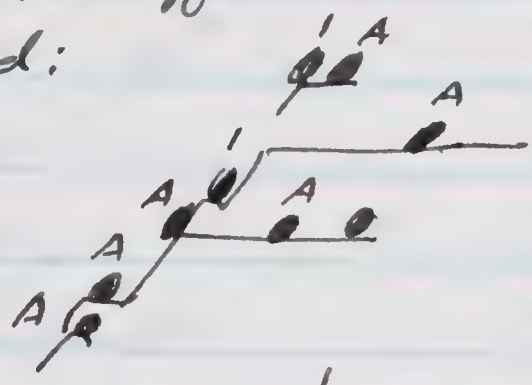
April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

dorsally ~~behind~~ posterior to the occiput the skin is pink, not orange - this pink area extends around the sides of the neck behind the ears. Bright magenta patch topped by light gray above front of ruff. The magenta patch bulges more than rest of the neck as if thinner skin. There was much pecking, head wrestling, & snapping between immatures & occasionally adults. In general there was no animosity between adults & immatures at the pool, however. Sky cleared about 4:45. at 5:10 there was a gust of east wind which caused the tent blind to flap violently. at 5:15 all the condors left the pool area, a ~~few~~ 1 or 2 at a time, & other birds left the cliffs so that only 5 remained visible. This was last use of the pool area today. Perhaps the blind movement frightened the birds. at 5:20 I counted 13 perched; at 5:25, 24 (11 immatures); at 5:35, 26 (12 immatures) perched about the Big Cave area (on cliffs N. of Big Cave as I could not view Roost Tree or cliffs W. of the cave). 5:40, I saw 13 on a whitewash Ledge & 6 atop cliff above it. Quiescence much greater than before 5:15 but still occasional shifts. at 5:50 the sunset line crossed cliff top - there were still 6 scattered atop cliff & 15 on whitewash

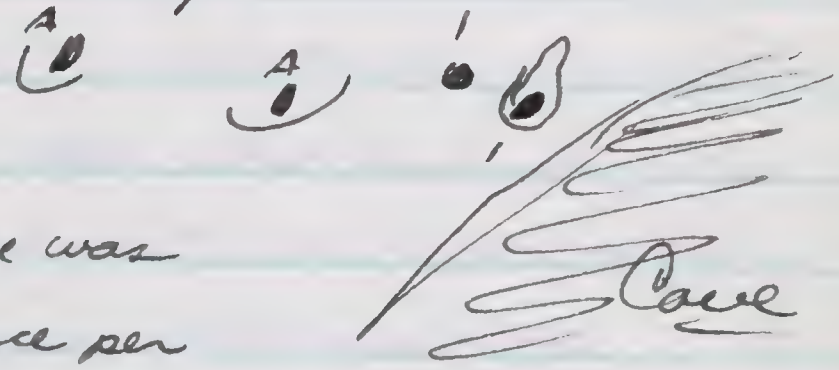
Gymnogyps californianus

April 13, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

Ledge (counting points below the main ledge). 6:05, 4 left atop cliff (some adults), 13 on Whitewash Ledge. 6:15, 3 scattered atop cliff (2 or + adults). Whitewash Ledge appeared:



The 3 pockets above cave were also occupied & two were on the ledge just above cave top. There was some shift about once per minute or more frequently (6:20). apparently none was crouched flat or had head tucked in by 6:25 (54° F., no breeze). 6:30 – 4 atop cliff, 20 ~~total~~ visible, still frequent shifting. By 6:45 all had left the cliff top. At 7:07 I could count 17 on the cliff & saw 1 fly off. About 7:10 I heard one fly – the last to fly this evening. Stars out but fairly bright moonlight. At 7:30 I could see at least 8 on Whitewash Ledge. During the play around the pool & when birds were on cliff nearby I heard about 6 separate times a grunt which sounded much like suppressed human belch.



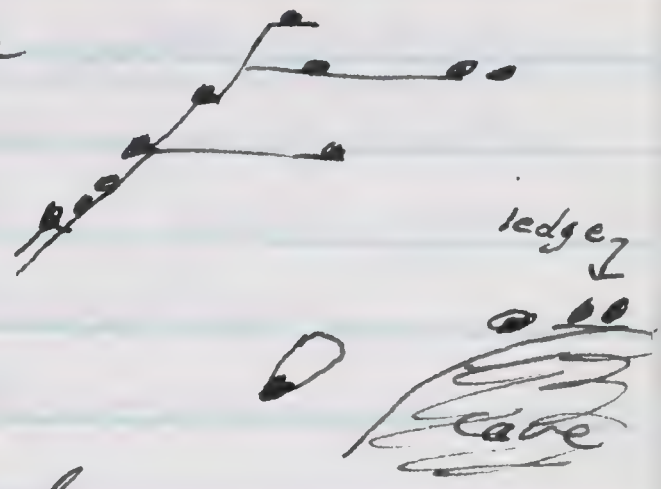
April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

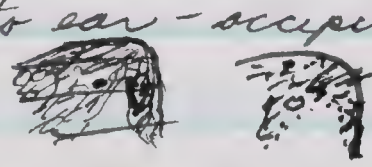
At 12:40 a.m., by moonlight, I observed the condors on Whitewash Ledge in apparently the same positions they had been in at 7:30 last evening – at least

Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

10 were in the open on Whitewash Ledge, thus:



Several apparently had their heads tucked in ~~so that they~~ appeared headless, but most appeared to be standing rather than crouched flat. at 5 a.m. I saw 3 fly from the ledges & at least, land- there was some shifting. I counted at least 12 on Whitewash Ledge however, & at least 5 had heads tucked in. at least 3 were crouched flat with heads tucked in. At 6:30 there were only 3 on Whitewash Ledge. One adult perched on a point on our side of the pool & sunned its back. Two immatures waded & drank at 6:35. At 6:50 there were 9 atop the cliff in sunshine & 3 still on shaded ledges. There was a fair breeze from E., 43°F., at 6:50. 6:54, one adult drank by nibbling at water surface for about 4 sec., then raising up for about 5 sec. - took about 3 drinks this way. Clear sky today. 6:58, 11 in ledges in shade, 2 imm. at pool, 6 condors atop cliff (19 total). 7:02, 4 imm. in water at foot of pool, occasionally drinking, & an adult next to pool. "In between" has pink sides to neck posterior to ear - occipital black continued down neck in this region  . 7:08-8 atop cliff, 7 on ledges where ~~roosted~~ most roosted last night. 7:09, an imm. gave 10 flaps in 4 seconds in shifting

Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

perched 7:20, the 4 imm. & 1 adult near pool all flew at once as if in fright - 2 imm. alighted about 50 yds. ~~NN~~ NE of the pool on the rocks. (Probably camera movement) I saw no cause for alarm. At least 2 flew down the canyon. 7:23, 5 atop cliff & 6 on ledges on cliff face. Sunshine ~~on~~ now ~~on~~ on part of Whitewash Ledge. Before 7:20 I saw one imm. peck at & carry an old feather near pool, & one pick up a long grass ~~straw~~ stalk in bill & then drop it. ~~The~~ Two birds went about 40' back from falls brink & walked about in green grass. One imm. pecked at soil & plants atop cliff over Big Cave. Heard a loud suppressed belch when adult near. Adult jumped at an imm. near pool & imm. fled - I heard then a growl or snarl from one of the two. 7:34, 6 imm. & 2 adults (adults side by side) atop cliff above Whitewash Ledge - this 20'X30' (approx.) slanting table seems a favorite gathering place. One adult there ~~crouched~~ crouched flat at cliff edge ↑. 7:37, an adult & imm. sunned backs, wings spread, atop cliff over Big Cave. 7:40, 7 in sunshine on Whitewash Ledge - 1 adult crouched flat, all quiescent as if basking in the sun. One adult still on shaded ledge above Big Cave. 7:50, 2 adults & 1 imm. of the 8 ~~total~~ on Whitewash Ledge are crouched flat; 8 atop cliff above these, all but 2 immatures (some immatures nibbling at brush at edge of rock); 1 on ledge over cave as before (adult) and 1 imm. atop cliff 1/4 ± mile to N. Sky

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

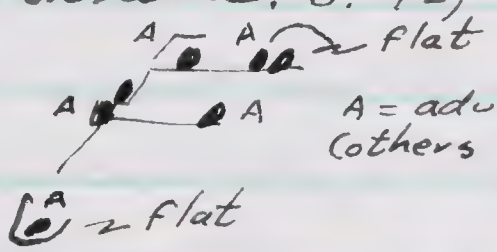
clear, sunbright, breeze light or absent. Strangely, practically no sunning. Condors very quiet - quietest since sunrise - with no perch shifting for over 10 minutes. A raven was within 10' of adult, imm., & drinking condors this morning - no reaction. 8 a.m., 4 imm. in a huddle atop cliff about 1/4 mile N. of Big Cave. 8:05, one adult atop cliff walked up to other & other retreated - this occurred 3± times until chased one was at cliff edge. Chasing adult delayed a little muggling with 2 immatures. Adult at cliff edge flew & other followed 30± sec. later they alighted on a point or in a pocket about 1/4 mile N. of Big Cave. Flight seemed very labored - sunshine but no wind (56°F. in blind). 8:13, 8 on Whitewash Ledge & 1 on ledge over Big Cave about as before; only 1 atop cliff over Whitewash Ledge & 1 atop cliff to N. as before - 11 total in view, only the 1 adult not in sunshine. Of the 8 on Whitewash Ledge, 4 were adults, one a near-adult, & 3 dark headed immatures. One adult & one imm. were crouched flat still. These birds mainly just looked around lazily, seldom preening. About 8:20 one imm. left. 8:25, the 7 mainly preening quietly - 2 still crouched flat. Adult had spread one wing half out for 2± min. while crouched flat. 8:39, top adult on ledge left - one (same?) alighted on a 60±' lower point & stretched wings to sun back - right wing, being

Gymnogyps californianus

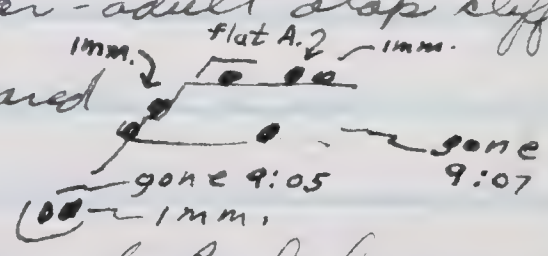
April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

next to cliff, only half spread. An imm. also left Whitewash Ledge & ~~an~~ adult landed there 1± min. later. At 8:34, ~~4~~ 5 adults, 1 dark head, & 2 near-adults on Whitewash Ledge

~~8:36~~, 8:37, the dark head left. 8:40, one adult swung back. One adult & one near-adult were crouched flat on rock. 8:42, ~~another~~ one adult left; ledge appeared:



8:45, adult still on ledge in shade over Big Cave as before, & ~~an eighth~~ a ninth bird (near-adult) was atop cliff 1/4± mile N. of Big Cave. No wind - faint breeze. adult flattened alongside near-adult pecked at the latter's head occasionally as if affectionately. ~~8:55, the upper right adult left & (now?) landed next to lowest adult.~~ 8:55, a near-adult landed next to the lowest adult, & both stood quietly. One adult ruffled up its ~~the~~ wings feathers & tail by shaking from side to side. ~~Upper right adult apparently gone~~; Near-adult atop cliff to N. gone (9 a.m.). Ledge appeared



The 2 upper imm. (near adults) crouched flat. 9:05, one adult flew into a potholé below Whitewash Ledge. Since the 7:20 scare there have been no condors near the pool. 9:10, of the 8 condors visible, 3 are near-adults, others adults:

ford

3024

Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

9:15, the 3 imm. left, 30± sec. apart. One remaining adult stretched right wing & leg down & back. The adult over cave on ledge did likewise. 5 adults only condors remaining in sight near Big Cave. 9:20, one imm. (dark head) alighted atop cliff 1/4± mile N. of Big Cave. 9:30, 3 adults on Whitewash Ledge (1 crouched flat) occasionally preening, 1 adult in pothole, 1 on ledge over Big Cave (as 2± hrs. ago), 1 dark head atop cliff to N. Violet-green swallows constantly flitting around the perching area - no condor reaction. 9:43, imm. gone from atop cliff to N. of cave. Between 9:45 & 9:50, all but the adult on ledge directly above Big Cave took off, 1 or 2 at a time, occasionally another landing. There were ~~2 or 3~~ 1 or 2 in air above horizon before the close birds took off - the condors in air seemed to excite the perched birds. Breeze was light - enough to ripple tent blind. The birds did not circle back near cave after leaving but 2 or 3 did alight briefly atop cliff 1/4± mile N. of the cave. At 9:52 the long perched adult on ledge over the cave took off - none visible perched. We left blind then & saw one adult sunning back atop Roost Tree. Ed took pictures of this & flushed the bird by approaching within about 100 yds. & saw 6 circling above N. Ridge, & 2 working their way N. that direction at 10 a.m. We were in the open

Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

and moving about within 1/4 mile of these last 2, but they did not investigate us. Rising time - 9:50. Temp. 60°F. in blind, clear sky, light breeze. We prepared to leave Big Cave area & collapsed the tent blind. The sand around the bathing pool was a solid interlaced mass of tracks for about 40 ft. from falls brink. Water was clear & sweet & running over the falls. The primary which had been such a "toy" had about 1/8 of barbs cut, pulled, or broken off, & the shaft was crushed in several places. Pulled up grass was evident on the green grassy spots near pool. At 10:50 when we were still at pool, one adult came over, circling & passed 150±' above us, & an imm. (dark head) came in about 20 ft. over us as if to land, suddenly saw us & started flapping violently, & flew on up Condor Canyon & over the ridge to East Canyon. At 11:15 we were about 1/2 mile N. of Big Cave & we saw two imm. spiral in to land on or near Whitewash Ledge. Ed whistled loudly a number of times and after 3± minutes the two took off & circled over the brush below us (we atop cliff) before heading toward North Slope. We continued on & arrived at car about 12:15. At the horse carcass then I saw ravens but no condors - a little later I saw 2 golden eagles being chased from the horse vicinity by ravens. ~~O~~ We lunched, then drove toward Parking Place. Met a group of 5± picknickers at Old Cabin. Sid Peyton had also been up to look

Gymnogyps californianus

April 14, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

for a duck hawk nest at Whitecrest Pk.. Later he told me he had seen several condors circling close when near the peak & had found a coyote in one of Herman Keene's lion traps. At 1:30 we arrived at Parking Place & saw one adult perched atop the dead tree 60± ft from road in head of Parking Canyon. (air still & hazy - fog forming in distance.) I walked down the road past this bird without flushing it, walking at an incautious pace. The adult looked me over but did not turn toward road or raise wings. I stood about 100 ft. from adult & talked loudly to Ed, ~~some~~ 100± yds. up the road - the adult then took off (Ed photoed it) and soared directly to the highest dead Ps. on a steep ridge 3/4± mile to SW, and at 300±' lower elevation. Ed & I drove down Pole Canyon.

April 15, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

With Ed Harrison visited Carroll DeWitt Scott at his home at 2600 Camino Prodera near La Jolla. Scott gave me a 105 page manuscript written by himself called "Looking for Condors". This book was written mainly for personal use & not for publication. It contains all of Mr. Scott's notes, speculations, ideas, & poems about the condor plus information from correspondence and publications. Preliminary perusal revealed many excellent notes & ideas. Scott conducted a fairly thorough

Gymnogyps californianus

April 15, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

investigation of the San Pedro Martir some years ago and came to the conclusion that only 1 or 2 condors ~~p~~ were present at best though formerly many. Scott came to this region in 1884 when 4 years old so is well qualified to judge the changes that have occurred in vegetation & wildlife. ~~He~~ His collection of Indian relics ~~she~~ testifies as to the many hours he has spent afield in San Diego county. Scott was of course very friendly to me & is extremely deeply interested in conversation of all kinds.

Ed Harrison told me that he had taken about 20 trips to Cuyama Valley with Pemberton in trying to get condor feeding photos. On one occasion they picked up jack rabbits alongside the road & piled them about the carcass - this was the day when the condors "took the sheep". The birds also ate the jack rabbits with considerable relish. At Encinitas I viewed some of Harrison's condor movies. Of especial interest was a fine photo of a soaking wet condor walking from the pool atop Big Cave & ~~suffling~~ shaking up its wings. There were some shots of sunning on Whitewash Ledge too. One sequence showed an adult perched atop a Ps. near #2 nest with 3 turkey vultures

Gymnogyps californianus

April 15, 1946 Encinitas, Calif.

perched within a few feet. There were some closeups of condor adult heads at the White-acre Pk. nest - these showed the bulging cheeks of one well; a constant character separating the pair at this nest? It is believed by Harrison that Pemberton's pictures have been shown so much that people are tired of condor movies, & Ed believes he will give his to some museum eventually for permanent record. Back to Scott: re Lower Calif. he believed Melling Ranch & Santa Rosa Meadows the localities of most reported occurrences. He believed it peculiar that condors were seen only in the high country there while they fed on the low plains in California.

April 17, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

With Ed Harrison I visited Mrs. Griffing Bancroft who has done considerable collecting in Lower California and has a good memory. On one occasion they were with Tony Green of the San Diego museum and had a permit to collect a condor. They were camped at La Encantada about 50 miles beyond Melling Ranch in about June of 1931. They killed a horse which had a broken foot for bait & watched it. There was a carcass at the other end of the meadow. This place was at about 6000' elevation. One

Enc. - 6000 - 11000 top. Steep & sides narrow. Perm. to ~~hill~~ call. 1. west T. Iron. Killed horse. Saw other end. About 8000'. - horse scart. - saw 1 - circl. 1000± over saw - no time; leaving 2 days later. Saw 2 condor with buzz over saw as left. Mr Melling said 2 come down & fed until said about catch. & came back several times. Ab. June '31. Heard of only 1 or 2 local people.

ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 17, 1946 San Diego, Calif.

day they were at a horse meadow nearby at about 8000' elevation when they saw one condor soar past. Mr. Bancroft had a 5x7 Graflex but could not get it into action fast enough to get a picture. This condor circled about 1000' over the cow carcass. Their time ran out & they had to leave - as they were leaving (about 2 days after above instance) they saw 2 condors circling with buzzards over the cow. Later Mr. Melling ~~co~~ told them 2 condors came & fed on the cow carcass several different days. The birds fed until they could hardly fly & a cowboy said he approached & "almost caught" one. By questioning the Bancrafts' concluded that the condors were only seen at the higher levels - never as low as Melling Ranch (about 2500') and never more than 1 or 2 birds. The mountain tops here were 11 or 12,000 ft. & snow capped. The San Pedro Martir range is narrow, steep on the E. side & gradual on the W., Mrs. B. said. She ~~ho~~ said she expected to see Mrs. Melling soon & would ask her about the condor situation & give me the info.

April 18, 1946 Escondido, Calif.

Talked with Jim ~~Dixon~~ Hanson at Escondido Mutual Water Co. (asst. to Jim Dixon). Hanson lent me a water company key for use today in visiting the San Luis Rey condor nesting area. He told me

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 18, 1946 San Diego Co., Calif.

that Fred Gallup of Escondido, a collector of eggs, had said that he had heard reports from different sources of condors being seen in the Julian area. Perhaps near Banner Grade, Hanson & Harrison thought likely. Ed & I drove to Rincon, thence toward Lake Henshaw up Cuca Grade until about 2 miles beyond the Palomar Mtn. road (new) and 1/2 ± mile beyond the Mendenhall Ranch house. There we turned off to the S. thru a locked gate and drove about 2 miles to road's end at caretakers house at dam on San Luis Rey River. The old condor nest area was on S. side of river atop the crest 500± ' above river, supposedly. In that area were many huge granite boulders interspersed in the brush & a few lone conifers (~~to~~ apparently would be suitable for roosting). There was a waterfall 200± ' above river opposite the caretakers shack - a condor could water ~~above~~ at its top it appeared. Further down the canyon were other large rounded granite outcroppings along the river. We hiked about 2 miles downstream along the flume, took a few pictures of the outcroppings & terrain, then returned up the canyon. Good condor nesting area, it appeared. One could look up the canyon & see Palomar Mtn. with its many conifers (possible roosts ofold). We returned to road & drove to Pala, Bonsall, Ocean-

Ford

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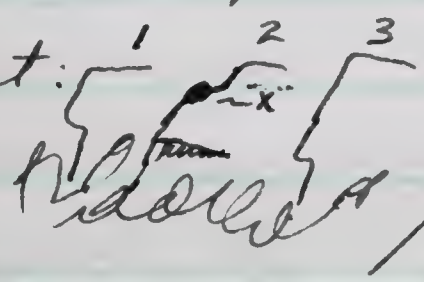
Gymnogyps californianus

April 18, 1946 San Diego Co., Calif.

side, & back to Encinitas (starting point). This day we saw comparatively few cattle - most on Neudenhall Ranch it appeared. For condors I believe the food situation here would be tight if they had to depend on ~~cattl~~ domestic animals. Questioned Mr. Wolf, the caretaker at the canal, re condors, showing him photographs. He had seen none, he said - he had seen eagles however & told us of a nest location which proved out.

April 21, 1946 (Easter) Sespe Canyon, Calif.

At 6:30 a.m. left my car at Van Tree's gate & hiked up the Big Sespe. Arrived atop the oil derrick at Oil Well Point at 8:55. At 8:35, from the trail, I had seen one imm. condor atop a high rock point about 200 yds. W. of the 1940 nest site. This bird was still there at 9:15 & appeared to be a 1945 youngster. At about 8:45 I saw a second condor (?) atop a rock point about 200 yds. E. of the old nest site; this bird was gone by 8:55. The area I watched particularly consisted of 3 ~~o~~ rock outcroppings of red Sespe sandstone about 700' above stream bed and ½± mile E. of it near foot of the canyon (+ on S. side) which runs to Sulphur Pk. from Oil Well Point. The outcroppings appeared about:



and were surrounded by heavy brush. The #2 outcropping had lost

50 – 1 E, 1 NW, imm off.

53 – 2 ov Rem to NE

56 – imm. ab. bor. – pr m Sul pla

Gymnogyps californianus

April 21, 1946 Sespe Canyon, Cal. R.

much of its whitewash at the center crack, but a ~~high~~ higher point appeared freshly whitened ("X" on diagram). A roughly similar outcropping 1/4± mile further toward Sulphur Pk. had a few whitewashed points also. By 9 a.m., sky clear, fair wind up Sespe Canyon. Only conspicuous whitewash on the cliffs to E. of the Sespe was a ledge about 200 yds. NW. of the high falls and 30± ' down from top of the 150± ' sheer cliff (ledge protected by overhang above). Saw no condors on whitewashed points further down the canyon this morning. The actions of the immature I watched should be typical of a one year ~~yr~~ old bird. 9:31, I saw one condor circling low about 1/2 mile S. of Sulphur Pk. It gradually rose to 1000' or more, then headed E. in a long glide at 9:50. Another headed NW about 1/2 mile S. W. of Sulphur Pk. at 9:50. The immature had occasionally preened. At 9:50 it took off, circled over the S. facing slope, & rose above the horizon at 9:55. At 9:53, two others circled above the ridge about 1 mile W. of Sulphur Pk. - they worked toward the peak, 100± ' above the brush, then headed ~~E.~~ SE passing 1/4 ± mile SW of the peak (10:00 a.m.). At 10:03 I saw another - probably the imm. - following a similar route to SE. S. breeze continues - circling

N: 42 - 2pd. Qet. Greened. Summed leaves
Ruffled up. Left ± 3 wks. out Both sum. 48.

Gymnogyps californianus

April 21, 1946 Sespe Canyon, Calif.

to gain altitude has obviously been above S. slopes. The falls at Oil Well Pt. was running ~~appr~~ well - it should be a good drinking place for condors. On the bluffs near top of Sulphur Pk., 2 or 3 well white-washed ledges are visible - maybe not condor perches. 10:30, two condors spiraled down, wings flexed, feet down, & landed atop a rocky bluff 50± yds. S. of lip of the falls. At least one was adult. They alighted 10± sec. apart, an adult first, the adult remaining in my view but other hidden beyond it. The adult's perch & other rocks near falls top were apparently not whitewashed at all, so probably not a frequent perch. 10:38 - adult gone; could not relocate. Perhaps it dropped down to water, or perhaps soared toward Bear Heaven. 10:42, I saw 3 circling above Sulphur Pk. - they rose to 1000± above it, then I lost them. From 11:00 to 11:15 I ~~w~~ watched one circling about ½ mile S. of north of West Fork - this bird made little change in altitude or location during this time; at 11:15 it glided W. At 11:15 I saw one circling near the bluffs just W. of Sulphur Pk., its shadow crossing the cliffs several times. At 11:20 this one headed SE. ~~low~~ Fair S. wind continued. 11:42, I saw two on the skyline atop a boulder at top of falls to SW of oil derrick. Apparently this was the

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 21, 1946 Sespe Canyon, Calif.

adult & imm. I saw land near there earlier today. Now the birds appeared wet. They preened, beat their wings in the air 5± times in succession (5 times in 2 seconds), & sunned backs with wings spread. The imm. had #3 left primary missing. Both were sunning backs at 11:48. adult shook up its wings once. 11:49, adult flapped to behind a bush, out of my sight. Imm. continued to sun (sunning at 11:55. This is my first evidence of bathing at this location. The 2 brothers + 3 seen soaring = at least 5 total seen today. 12:05, the imm. gave 3± flaps, then sunned back & wings again, preening underparts at same time. 12:15, the imm. preening at same perch. 12:35, still preening. Birds which spend so much time bathing & preening can hardly find food daily, or be very hungry. 12:39, the imm. retired out of sight. No action seen then until 3:20 when an imm. crossed northward near foot of the canyon leading to Sulphur Pk. This imm. circled & slowly worked up the slope, going N., until about 1000' above the ridge (3:29) – then another (adult?) circled with it for 2± minutes and one (the second ♀) headed NW in a long glide. The imm. ~~other~~ soared 1± mile W, then circling 200± ' above the brush worked back toward Sulphur Pk.. At one time 5 turkey vultures circled within 200'

Pord

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 21, 1946 Sespe Canyon, Calif.

above this condor. The bird glided SW & passed about 1/2 mile W. of Sulphur Pk. (3:45), then resumed circling. This bird had a missing #3 or 4 primary in each wing - perhaps the imm. I saw after bathing today. 3:55, this bird still circling - at about 500', 1/4± mile S. of Sulphur Pk., close to 5 circling turkey vultures. The turkey vultures circled about twice as fast as the condor. 3:57, the condor was at 1000± ' altitude; it headed W±, turned one circle at two points, & passed 2000± ' above me at 4 p.m., then turned back toward Sulphur Pk., feet down. Then circled about 500' above brush 1± mile SW of Sulphur Pk., feet up (4:04). It occurs to me that it is much more common to see a lone imm. than a lone adult. It appears that there is no condor nest this year in the canyon running from Oil Well Point to Sulphur Pk.; probably there was last year. 4:10, the imm. circled 100± ' above the bluffs 1/2± mile SW of Sulphur Pk.. I have not seen this bird flap or even dip its wings since 3:20. ~~4:0~~ 4:13, I saw an adult about 500' above the imm., heading SW. toward me in a long glide. 4:15, the adult passed 2000± ' above me. It wandered a bit, then passed back over me at 4:18, heading E., the imm. 500± ' below the adult. The adult glided out of my ~~sd~~ sight heading E. about 1 mile SW of Sulphur Pk. at 4:21, & the imm. followed about ~~a~~ 1/2 mile behind. Left at 4:30 &

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 21, 1946 Sespe Canyon, Calif.

hiked down Sespe Canyon - saw none on the usual perch points along the way.

April 22, 1946 Cuyama Valley, Calif

With Sidney Peyton Jr. drove from Fillmore to Ojai, thence on the Maricopa road to Cuyama Valley and Cuyama Ranger station. There I talked with Ranger Bayes and his wife & a boy named Carter. The ranger knew of the condors & had seen some he said - but nothing definite. His wife said she saw one circling over a deer which was being chased by a lion (last year). The boy said he was working near Old Man Mtn. and had seen one or two there occasionally, the last about a week ago (1 bird). All were very much interested in condors & their habits. The ranger said there were no sheep in the Cuyama last year so not many condors. On the road to Cuyama R.S. I was again impressed by the rugged rocks & scattered conifers of the S. side of Pine Mtn. - perhaps there is no roosting concentration there because of distance to food. We drove up the road toward Big Pine Mtn. from the Ballinger Canyon turnoff. Road became impassable because of many slides & rocks at the water tank below Chake-

Gymnogyps californianus

April 22, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

cherry Saddle. We left the car & hiked toward the Big Pine Lookout (leaving car 3:40). At 4:15 we were looking at Modulec LO from the ~~A~~ SW side. We saw two condors circling 200± ' above the Modulec Ridge, & 5± minutes later they were soaring E. Sky 3/10 cirrus, fair wind earlier today but nil by 4 p.m. We continued on & arrived at Big Pine LO at about 7 p.m. No one had driven beyond ~~on~~ where our car was for weeks or months, but there were a few horse tracks & footprints. The forest had of course been closed during hunting season the last few years. Modulec LO had not been manned in recent years. At Big Pine LO we found a radio log signed Harriet Boyce for periods from June 1 to Oct. 31, 1945 - she ~~is~~ is the one who supposedly saw a young condor being fed nearby. Fair wind sprang up about 8 p.m.

April 23, 1946 Mission Pine, Calif.

with Sid Peyton Jr. left Big Pine Lookout at 6:35 a.m. & hiked toward Mission Pine. Sky 1/10 cirro-stratus, fair E. wind, moderate temperature. We reached the big pines at head of Falls Canyon at ~~9:30~~ 9:20 and sat on the slope looking out over Carter Knoll in

12 - 5/0 a st

7 - set

4:25 - 2. on pt. ad & im. dwn sun.

4:35 - 2 (or 3) over Bay P. T bird (adult) landed pt.
1 to 1½ mile S, then back.

:40 - 2 ad off (oos).

:45 - 3 abv. 1 mile bay. imm, ~~heading~~ NE circl., 6000' lev.

47 - imm off. Circ & come ½ mi. S. perch pt

53:

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 23, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

Falls Canyon toward Salesbury Potrero. Below the Big Pine Lookout 3± points ~~seemed to~~ were well whitened as if used for condor perches. We saw no whitening or other evidence of condor roosting in the big pines at head of Falls Canyon. By 11:45 we saw no ~~Con~~ condors. Went to Cooper Camp for lunch, left there at 12:25 & the big pines at 12:40 heading for Big Pine L.O. About 12:00 sky was 5/10 cirrus & cirro-stratus, & breeze light. Arrived at lookout at 4 p.m., having seen no condors. At 4:25 I saw 2 soaring near the cliffs 1/2± mile W. of the lookout. They circled & rose & at 4:28 perched on a point atop the cliffs. They were an adult & an imm. (with wing patches). The imm. summed with wings spread. At 4:33 I saw 2 (possibly 3) over the big pines at head of Falls Canyon, above the horizon, circling. I saw another adult land near the perched one (6±' from it). This trio stood quietly together, & at 4:40 the adults left (to where?). At 4:45 I saw 3 about a mile beyond the imm., circling, at 6000±' level. 4:47, the imm took off, soared 1/2± mile S., circled, & rose well above the horizon (then lost). 4:53, two (of the 3?) circled about 1/2 mile W. of where imm. was perched. 5:00 - I could spot none. Fair wind from NE; 65° in lookout; heavy haze in all directions. Perhaps the 2 adults & imm. were a "family" of 1945

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 23, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

from this area. Saw no more by dark.

April 24, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

At 7 a.m. sky 1/10 cirrus, fair east wind, 60°F. Air clear to W. so had good view of San Rafael Mtn. & could probably see condors there as well as near the upper big yellow pines in head of Falls Canyon. Would spend the morning watching from the lookout. At 7:20 I saw a large bird (possible condor) perched on limb of a stub on N. side of San Rafael Mtn. - gone at 8 a.m. Saw none from the lookout (with constant search) by 10:15. Then hiked E. along cliff tops peering down to look for condors or whitewash. At 10:25 I saw 2 adults circling about 1/2 mile SW of the lookout. Continued on to about 1 mile E. of the lookout; saw 5± points on the cliffs or rock points on slopes below to S. which appeared to be condor perches. Many perch point possibilities, a few conifers for roosts, & many potholes & broken cliffs for possible nesting sites on S. side of the Big Pine Mtn. ridge. At 12:15 saw 2 adults ~~and~~ circling over the N. slope about 1 mile E. of the lookout; they circled in opposite directions & rose until 800± ' above tops of cliffs, then - ?. At 12:45 we were back at the lookout - fair NE wind still, 68°F., sky 1/10 cumulus. Watched continually from the lookout but saw none until 4:16. Then an adult was seen

1:16 - ad. 1 mi. E
4:18 - landed, fall lf.

Ford

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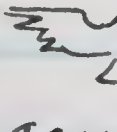
Gymnogyps californianus

April 24, 1946 Big Pine Lookout, Calif.

approaching about 1/4 mile S. of the cliff point 1± mile E. This bird had feet down - it spiraled down sharply with wings flexed, twisting to one side then the other by bending the wing tips down (something like plane maneuver called the "falling leaf") and swooped up to a landing on a prominent whitewashed point about 100' below the highest cliff point (landed 4:18). Fair NE wind still, sky 1/10 cumulus, increasing haze. The adult occasionally preened. It stood quietly facing the cliff. Same at 4:45. 4:44, adult spread back wings  + tail spread. Back to sun. 4:46, wings folded again. 4:48, the adult took off & descended very rapidly with wings flexed & feet down, occasionally dipping wings, & at 4:50 disappeared behind a ridge about 1/2 mile SE and 800 ft. below the lookout level as if to land - this canyon not visible from lookout. At 5 p.m. I left the lookout & went to head of canyon where the condor disappeared - there were 3± whitewashed perch points on cliffs down this canyon but I could see no condor. Returned to the lookout.

April 25, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

At 5:25 a.m. I left Big Pine Lookout to hike to Falls Canyon. Fair E. wind, moderate temperature, & clear sky - warmer & less windy than yesterday. I reached the big pines at head of Falls Canyon at 7:40

Gymnogyps californianus

April 25, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

and was at the stream in Dead Oaks Canyon at 8 a.m. - soaring condition fair - light breeze only in canyon. There I met a man who was in charge of a 4 man trail crew camped there. His name was Witten (or something like that). He said they normally worked 10 days & then went "out" via South Fork for 4 days. They had been in the Sespe for about 2 months but had seen very few condors - about 2 maximum at a time. He said they saw 2 perched on the rocks upstream from the falls recently. Most trail work had been along the Sespe as they were waiting for snow to clear. It had rained almost all month in December, he said. A lion had killed a deer near South Fork Camp & they saw a couple (?) of condors circling over where they thought the lion had dragged the carcass. I continued on. At Bend Cliffs there was a much & freshly (it appeared) whitewashed pothole about halfway up the cliff on the fallward side - no whitewash on top or on nearby rocks. 2 or 3 of the perch trees in side canyons in the Condor Sanctuary seemed to show somewhitening as if used for perches. At 9:15 I was at the brink of the falls. There was a fast stream of clear water running. The prominent perch rock about 100 yds. SE of falls +50± ' above was unwhitened. There was neither whitewash nor feathers nor evidence of grass pulling in the pool basin, but on a flat ledge 7± ' above the water level and 15± ' N. of it there was about

Gymnogyps californianus

April 25, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

8 squirts of condor-like whitewash & a fairly well whitened point on cliff edge about 25' W. of falls brink. Several protected potholes in the main conglomerate cliffs had old stalactites of whitewash still, & 1 point about 100 yds. NE of brink & 15± above seemed freshly whitewashed. Summing up: - there is still some use of the falls area for perching, & probably for drinking & bathing but there are at present only a few condors in the area. I ascribe this lack of condors to lack of food on the Santa Barbara & other Potreros & in Cuyama Valley. Sneddon Ranch had many cattle, however, but mainly close to & in the foothills. Left the falls at 9:50 & hiked back up to trail (10:25) and to Dead Oaks Canyon (11:30). There I met the trail crew of Jim W. —, Duane Woolworth, & — Hurley. Jim had worked as forest guard on Mt. Abel in past years & had seen grouse there but not condors. For the last 4 years he had been in the Sespe area around this time of year. He thought he saw more condors here last year than this. Unfortunately he was very loquacious but not much of a condor observer. Woolworth reiterated the story of seeing 2 near the brink about two months ago and 2 or 3 "up above" (on the potrero side I judged). He said he saw 2 on the cliffs (my "Bend Cliffs") about 10 days ago. He also said that in May or June of 1942

Woolworth - 2 mos. ago, 2 near lion hill
Mayor June 72 - 70 & 8 most m. BP 20 - people
within a few ft.
No sheep in Cay or Carr for sev yrs.
2 m. Alaman - (wit).

Gymnogyps californianus

April 25, 1946 Falls Canyon, Calif.

there was a couple at Big Pine Lookout & a child, & that several (7 or 8) condors were perched on the rocks within a few feet of the lookout & could be approached within about 15'. Jim said he had seen two near Alamar Saddle last year & that they had perched on a tree nearby. He also said there had been little snow this winter but in '43 (not quite sure) there was 5½ feet near Big Pine after one storm. I lunched with these men, then left at 1:10 & hiked up the canyon. Light wind, sky 2/10 cirrus & cumulus. At 1:50 I left the Big Pines for Big Pine Lookout. Sky became more overcast; 5/10 cirrus & cirro-stratus at 4 p.m., & wind faint or nil - increasing haze. Arrived at 4:25 p.m. at Big Pine Lookout. Sidney Peyton had seen no condors from there all day - he said ~~there had been~~ there had been a W. breeze & considerable haze all day. Saw no more condors from lookout this evening. I recall that Jim W. told me he believed there were few sheep in the Cuyama and none on Carrizo Plain the last few years. He said the cattle were usually on the Potreros from May to November and not in winter.

April 26, 1946 Ventura Co., Calif.

Hiked from Big Pine Lookout (departing at 06:30) to Chokecherry Saddle & drove down Santa Barbara Canyon through Snedden Gate to

Gymnogyps californianus

April 26, 1946 Ventura Co., Calif.
Cuyama Ranger Station & thence to Ojai on Highway 399. Between this road (near Ozena) and the Mt. Pinos group are low eroded hills which do not appear to be good cattle grazing country. This leaves Pine Mtn. rather isolated from any plains grazing country.

April 28, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.
With my uncle G R Buckingham of Delano left Delano at about 7:30 a.m. for a plane flight to view some Kern Co. condor areas. We flew ~~nwa~~ east to near White River, then skirted the foothills going southward over Kern River power plant and Mt. Adelaide, thence over Caliente to Tehachapi & landed. Left Tehachapi about 0830 & flew over Bear Valley going westward, skirted the west end of Bear Mtn., then headed northward to Walker ~~Pass~~ Basin, thence over Havilah, across Greenhorn Mtns. to near Glennville, thence westward near Blue Mtn. and on to Jasmin and Delano (arrived about 10 a.m.). We saw no condors, but saw perhaps 800 cattle between Blue Mtn. & Jasmin in the low rolling open country - apparently excellent condor foraging territory. Saw few cattle in other regions traversed.

Ford

3045

Gymnogyps californianus

April 28, 1946 Kern Co, Calif.

In eastern Cummings Valley saw perhaps 500 sheep. Bear Mtn. seemed to have many trees suitable for roosting on the N. & especially the west side - conifers, some dead. If condors roosted there, Bear Valley should be a ~~good~~ frequented feeding area. Breckenridge Mtn. has a lookout from which condors should be seen if about (on the Walker Pass side). The Baker Grade area ~~went~~ goes through broken oak country & has no probable roosts - ~~Bub~~ Breckenridge Mtn. has best possibilities there. Blue Mtn. near White River also has a lookout ~~&~~ (a good condor lookout post). The low country of Tejon Ranch & north was very dry - perhaps cattle will be diminished in numbers because of lack of feed this year & thus effect condor food supply.

April 29, 1946 ~~Ker~~ Tulare Co., Calif.

Drove from Delano to Porterville. There talked with Forest Guard Snider (sp.?) who said he had heard of no condors being seen since my last visit. ~~except that~~ He thought he had heard of Walter Greig of White River seeing some. I phoned Ross Welch re condors (game warden). He said he possibly saw one with buzzards near Orange Grove

Gymnogyps californianus

April 29, 1946 ~~Ker~~ Tulare Co, Calif.

about 7 miles E. of Porterville about a week ago. He suggested I visit the Coyote Springs area & get Jim Vincent or Walter Greig to direct me. Phoned Reuben Gilliam's (old sheep rancher) place (512 So. J. st.) but found him not home. Left Porterville about 12:00 on this clear warm day & drove to to White River. Wind fair from NW. I saw about 600 Herefords scattered ~~along~~ in the dry grass rolling hills between Porterville & White River & saw 6± turkey vultures - plenty of prospective condor food. At White River I talked with Mrs. Greig who runs the phone switchboard. She had some interest in watching turkey vultures & other birds. She knew condors had white under their wings & said that 2 perched frequently on the rock outcroppings of a smooth grassy hill about 1 mile E. of White River. She thought they nested there because 2 were around all year from March 1 (1945) when the Greigs came there. She said they soared W. in the morning and E. in the evening. Two of her children climbed up there one day & were frightened by the birds because they did not fly off when approached. The children ~~supposed~~ were well acquainted with buzzards she said & these birds were much bigger. She did not know about the

Gymnogyps californianus

April 29, 1946 Tulare Co., Calif.

orange head, however. She said she & her husband had talked about the condors but that she had seen them most as ~~she was~~ he was seldom at home in the daytime. ~~They knew~~ They knew about the condor Vincent had found. ~~T~~The hill where Mrs. Greig had seen the "condors" did not appear to have suitable nesting sites - Blue Mtn., 3½ miles to SE, had ~~some~~ many rough cliffs which seemed like good nesting area, however. Retrogressing: Ulsh said the condor "came in" about this time of year. Mrs. Greig directed me to Marvin Vincent's place on the lower Vincent Ranch - to W. of the White River to Woody road about 3 miles from White River. I found Vincent at home. He said the ranch was about 14,000 acres with 1700 head of cattle. He had been in the area 26 years & on the lower ranch for 19. ~~About~~ Every year or two they saw condors - or "Vultures" as he ~~co~~ knew them. He said they always seemed to come from the N. & depart toward the south. He recalls having seen none in winter or spring, & most in late summer. About 17 years ago they had many squirrels & poisoned many - condors ate the poisoned squirrels he said (about 17 flushed on one occasion). The Coyote Springs episode he again related. There was a steer dead there -

ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

April 29, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

about 36 hours dead - but untouched. The birds may have been after the water. Many hit the fence wires (3 & 4 strands of barbed wire). They galloped along, flapping their wings heavily, to take off. This spring is in open grassland ~~but the~~ in low rolling hills - the water is covered by "willows" to a large extent. The spring ~~first~~ lies about 1/2 mile N. of the Quinn-Woody road & about 3 miles W. of Isham Hill. There were 34 or 35 condors present - the most Vincent had ever seen. About 4 to 6 weeks before this incident Vincent killed a coyote about a mile from the house. Later the same day his children flushed 20 condors from the vicinity, they told him, & the ribs, legs, & skull ~~were~~ had been consumed. Vincent said he had killed 38 ~~mtn~~ mountain lions in the back country. Deer were almost absent in the lower scattered-oak country but there were some back toward the brush line (about 3 miles E.). Vincent's father, H. G. V., was not too observant or interested in wildlife, Marvin said. He said there were probably slightly fewer cattle in this area now than 20 years ago. ~~Years~~ many years ago there had been ~~some~~ many sheep in the low country, & some (perhaps 2000) ~~sheep~~ in

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the last 4 or 5 years (Quinn Ranch for one place). Marion said the Coyote Springs area was apparently one of the most frequent for condors. I could not locate the spring from Marion's directions, but this "Lamer Vincent Ranch" had a few scattered oaks but was mainly rolling oat-covered dry hills. There were two high tension power lines in the area - possible condor hazards. I found a steer carcass 2± weeks old but no condor evidence near it. Seemingly condor movement to this area in fall would indicate food shortage elsewhere, but except for sheep in some areas, potential condor food is constant as to location (tho perhaps greater mortality in winter). GR Buckingham of Delano said he believed the Quinn Ranch had been sold & that it was now in wheat instead of sheep - this tendency, if general, would decrease condor food supply.

April 30, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

With my uncle GR Buckingham of Delano flew in search of condors. Left Delano at 9:45 & flew over Lost Hills to E. edge of the Temblor Range, thence southward at about 2000' altitude over the foothills - over Cameron Rocks & other rocks, & over several hundred head of cattle - past Fellows & McKittrick

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thence to Taft and landed at 10:45. Then returned to Delano over Buttonwillow, Shafter, & Wasco. We saw no condors but a few buzzards - saw no carcasses. Apparently these rolling treeless cattle covered foothills are favorable for condor feeding grounds. Near McKittrick the cattle gave way to grain & oil wells ~~for a~~ to a large extent. Sky clear, light breeze at surface, air moderately bumpy ~~in~~ on the morning flight. Later in the day talked with Ranger Cron at Porterville. He said he had been told of condors near White River by Walter Ivey (husband of telephone operator there) and had seen them soaring high overhead there. He identified them by the white patches under the wings & believes his identification unmistakable. Cron seems very genuinely interested in condors. Saw many cattle between Porterville & Springville among the grassy hills (many rough rock outcroppings too).

May 2, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

To get a look at the squirrel country east of Famoso, I left Delano at about 8 a.m., drove to McFarland, thence east about 8 miles, thence south toward Bakersfield. About 4 miles east

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May 2, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

of McFarland I hit the uncultivated squirrel area. ~~count~~ The hills were dry, gently rolling, treeless & bushless, & apparently unused by stock. I could see several squirrels in any direction. This type of ground continued until east of Famoso, then oil development encroached. Apparently much more "squirrel country" to eastward. I saw perhaps 20 turkey vultures 1 or 2 at a time, & at one squirrel carcass. Saw one "poison out" sign east of Famoso. Continued on to Bakersfield. Found Bufort Fox not in, but ~~the~~ a man mixing poisoned rolled ~~oats~~ oats said that poisoning was now going on in the Poso Creek district east of Famoso. I then went to visit Ranger Dick Droege (Greenhorn District) at 315 Haberfelde Bldg.. He had never seen a condor but had heard of them. He recalled ~~seeing~~ having a condor-reporting form sent to him some years ago but he had filed it as something not to be bothered with. He was very interested in the pictures I showed him, however, & asked many intelligent questions. The Oak Flat Lookout would be posted May 16 and Breckenridge Mtn. LO on June 1 - he would be glad to furnish these with any photos or information I could send him. He said there were about 3000

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May 2, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

head of cattle on his district of Sequoia Nat'l Forest but he knew of no sheep. I left Bakersfield about noon & drove northward on the Porterfield road which runs about 7 miles E. of Famoso, turned eastward up Little Creek for about 5 miles. There I examined about 8 sheep carcasses of apparently several months vintage. Some had apparently dried up in most part, & about half of the carcasses had been partially consumed by coyotes, but saw no evidence of condors. Later examined 2 more old sheep carcasses - carnivores again but no condor evidence. Saw no ravens at all in this area. From 12:45 to 2:30 I prowled about the dry rolling hills - squirrels were absent from many sections as if poisoned. Saw 30± turkey vultures, 1 golden eagle, & 10± broad-winged hawks in the vicinity. Could not find the poisoning party. Drove northward toward Portenville again, then west to ~~Delano~~ McFarland and ~~on the Poam - Woody road~~ to Delano via Jasmin. Sky 5/10 cirro-stratus, fair breeze.

May 3, 1946 Bakersfield, Calif.

Drove from Delano to Bakersfield & there talked with Buford Fox and Joe Keyes. Fox had heard of no condors being seen E. of Famoso - nor Keyes - but both were sure they would be there soon. Keyes had been

10:32 - 4 - [illegible]

10:37 - 9 [illegible]

[illegible]

10:37 - [illegible]

[illegible] 3.7 [illegible]

[illegible]

11:57 - 3 and 4 [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 75 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

11:13 - Counted 13, 2 [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] 15 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

2 [illegible] Std. ± 100' from [illegible]. At 11:18 -

2 [illegible] called at [illegible]

[illegible] inflated [illegible]

100 ft [illegible] Still

standing 100 [illegible]

feeding (± 24).

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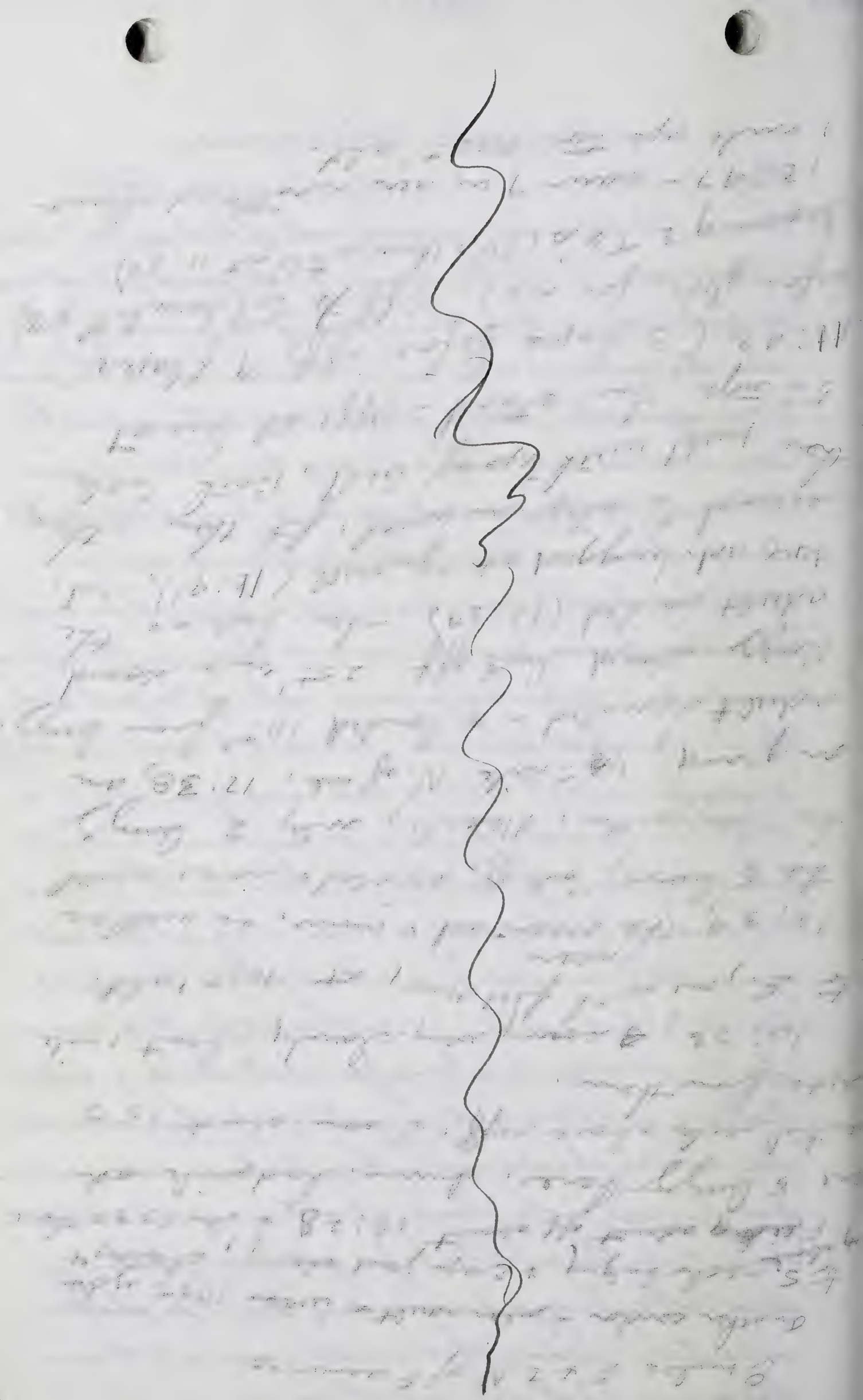
May 3, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

visiting the squirrel areas east of Delano, McFarland, & Famoso since thallium was first used, about 1926. He had seen condors there during the poisoning, & seen the condors & turkey vultures eating the poisoned squirrels, every year. The most condors he ever saw at once was 17, & of these 7 were immatures (1945). Joe said up to 76 buzzards roosted in dead trees on Poso Creek about ½ mile upstream from the Porterville road, last year, & over 100 in some preceding years. He had examined these roosts & found no dead or sick buzzards, in spite of the fact ~~that~~ they ate poisoned squirrels. Joe said the condors usually appeared about 10 a.m. and were gone by 4 or 4:30 p.m. He had no guess or information as to where they came from or where they went. Joe said the condors first appeared about May 20 of last year. ~~At f~~ One day he saw one, ~~later~~ the next 3, then 5, 7, 12, & up to 17 - in other words, they came in gradually. One time Joe shot about 6 cottontails & laid them out in natural fashion near an old wooden shack near where he had seen condors feed. Joe got in the shack about 8 a.m. The condors came & ate the rabbits & Joe got some photos of them with buzzards standing by. The photos were taken ~~from~~ with a small camera & the prints blown up, but the adult condors were un-



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May 3, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

mistakable (I saw the pictures). Maximum number of condors in photos was 2 or 3. Joe said that buzzards & condors eat the membrane but not the digestive tract of the poisoned squirrels; he believes they would be poisoned only if they ate this. Coyotes & bobcats are killed easily by secondary poisoning, Joe said, but apparently not birds. The buzzards give way to the condors & stand around in a circle while condors are feeding, Joe said. Occasionally a condor snaps at a buzzard with bill. Condors can be approached quite close in a car - to within about 40' at times, says Joe. Sometimes they will fly a short ways carrying the squirrel in their bill rather than relinquish it, said Joe - buzzards do this too. The buzzards often stand around & sun their backs with wings out but Joe has not seen condors do this. The "triangle" formed by the Bakersfield-Porterville, McFarland-Woody, & Famoso-Woody highways has been the most frequented condor area, ~~below~~ says Joe. Once, Joe says, he flushed a condor & a golden eagle from a carcass at Poso Flat. Once, with Everett Horn, he saw condors feeding on a calf on Tejon Ranch before squirrel poisoning season. He said he had seen condors feed on sheep & cattle but mostly on squirrels - he thinks they especially like them. The condors follow 1 or 2 days

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after the poison crew, Joe said, + buzzards too. He has seen buzzards eat dried up carcasses 2 or 3 weeks old, however. His opinion of takeoff distance was about 30 ft., but he said the wings were held out + not flapped during the takeoff run (wrong!). Joe said condors seemed to wait 5 or 10 minutes after landing before commencing to eat as if not natching the food — I believe Joe got this idea from his blind experience. He said the condors — about 70 away — did not seem to mind the camera click. Both condors + buzzards seem to prefer fresh meat, Joe said. One of his photos shows adult condor with one foot on squirrel or rabbit + pulling with bill. Condors are more wary than buzzards, Joe believes. Joe thought he had heard of one being reported found dead in a horse trough a few years ago but couldn't recall where he had heard the story. Joe had never seen condors on the W. side of San Joaquin Valley. Fox said that the whole Santa Maria Valley had been poisoned + that work was being done ~~near Bakersfield~~ on Carrizo Plain too. ~~Land on C~~ Finis Bradshaw, who gave me some condor tips before, now works near Annette. One county man said a man named Douglas working in the Tejon foothills near El Paso Creek, reported seeing 3 condors one day + 2 the next about a week ago (may not know condors, the informant thought). There are ~~were~~ many buzzards about 2 miles E. of Kern Co. Park where

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squirrels are being poisoned, said the same man. Another poisoning party is working about 3 miles SW of Mt. Poso. Joe said that when he first noted condors feeding on poisoned squirrels he was worried about the possible effect, but he had seen nothing to indicate any bad effects on the birds, & 17 (1945 figure) was the most he had ever seen. I drove then to Famoso and E. to Rexroth Corner (Rexroth brother's ranch), arriving at ~~10:45~~ 10:30 a.m. At 10:32 I saw 2 condors soaring about 1 mile NE of the Corner, & at 10:39 made out 9. One adult soared 300± ' over me. I drove to about 1½ miles NE of the Corner & at 10:51 saw 8 total, 2 being perched on a dry grass gentle slope with 3 turkey vultures close by them. The rolling hills were perhaps 60' from bottom to crest so that even in the "valleys" the condors had good takeoff country. At a group of squirrel holes I then saw 3 adults & 1 imm. with 3 buzzards standing near, on 5% slope. Another imm. stood 75± yds. to E. ~~at~~; it ~~this~~ joined the group. At 11:10 one adult landed about 200 yds. W. of the group & 2 buzzards there took off as the condor landed. To take off the condors ran with body horizontal & wings flapping & feet galloping, one striding shortly after the other. One bird landed & ran about 6 steps in stopping on the near level ground. ~~At ##~~ I was in my

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car about 200 yds. from these birds & may have disturbed them. 11:13, I counted 13 - 1 adult & 1 imm. were still at the near squirrel hole & 5± were with buzzards 2± miles to E. The imm. took off galloping with both feet nearly simultaneously & flapping 15 times, then flap-glided 300± yds. & alighted near 2 buzzards. The adult followed and landed about 100' from imm.. At 11:18 the 2 buzzards flew off & refanded. The adult pulled at the squirrel with bill several times, holding it down with 1 or both feet. The 2 buzzards stood 10±' behind adult, quietly. At 11:24 the imm. still stood quietly on the slope 100±' from adult. The location of these birds was 8 miles E. & 2 miles N. of Famoso. Another condor - a near-adult - stood 100± yds. to S. of my car, its neck bulging & "crop" skin just showing, standing & looking about. The imm. had pink color ventrally on neck above ruff. 11:32 The feeding adult took off about 11:28 & by 11:30 there were 5 buzzards standing at that spot. 11:32, there were 4 soaring very slowly about 1 mile to E., one with feet down, at 400±' altitude. These birds were in flex-gliding position heading NW± into the wind as if "tacking". 11:34, the nearby perched condors & buzzards took off & circled together, rising. Two buzzards remained perched 1/4± mile N. of me, & at 11:38 an adult spiraled in and landed 10±' from the buzzards. The buzzards

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remained but flapped off 20± ' as a second adult landed beside the first (11:39), then walked back toward adults as the latter each tugged at a squirrel (11:41). The adults seemed to step on the squirrel with one foot, then the other, then pull with tip of bill. Each adult took 5± tugs, then stood quietly, then took off one at a time (11:43). One took 3 hops before off, and 9 flaps before the first glide. Both took off to S. (downhill 5%, wind NW) leaving the 2 buzzards. 11:47, I saw 7 in air scattered about 1 mile & up to 400±' altitude. 11:50, 12 in view, some having apparently risen from about 1 mile SE of me behind a hump. There was a fair, steady, NW breeze. 11:52, 13 condors + 3 buzzards whirled in a column from 50' to 500' altitude about 1 mile SE of me. 11:58, 6 of these tacked slowly NW near me. 11:59, I saw one drop down as if to alight about 1 mile SE of me. 12:00, 1 adult soared overhead, 2 about 1 mile to E., + 3 about 1 mile to SE — soaring very slowly, wings flapped. One bird had 1 or 2 rectrices missing; another ~~a~~ battered wings + tail. One might time condor speed here by timing a condor shadow as it passes 2 successive telephone posts. There was a high tension power line (Edison) about 2 miles to E., the Paso oil wells about 2 miles to S. 12:05, two flap-glided up

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a draw about 1 mile SE of me - 13 flaps maximum; 2 flaps per second or slightly faster (perhaps 10 per 8 seconds). 12:06, 7 condors with 4 turkey vultures circled about 1 mile to SE. Wind about 20 mph from NW, 76°F., sky clear. 12:13, 9 condors + 3 buzzards about 1 mile E. of me (1 of these was about 1 mile SE of me + at 1000±'). General comments: ~~they~~ They search for food at moderate altitudes, about 100' to 300' usually. In many cases the condors land where there are buzzards, & the buzzards give way - do condors let buzzards find their food for them? The condors split up into 1's, 2's, 3's, + 4's, rather than staying & feeding together - two groups may be 2 miles apart. Bear mtn., a possible roost, is 30 miles from this spot. Greenhorn Mountains or Breckenridge mtn. have trees suitable for roosting at a lesser distance. ~~Many~~ Some squirrels outside of holes remained untouched - these were bloated + stinking & supposedly would be eaten eventually. I required about 15 minutes search per carcass found. Re Joe Kayes: he was very willing to give information + nearly all proved accurate + unstretched; he was very friendly + talkative with me & but I did not mention "Audubon".

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12:20, I saw 4 circling with turkey vultures at up to 300' altitude about 1 mile to S., & one about 1 mile to NE. ~~It~~ I drove to a hilltop about 1/2 mile E. of the first. From there at 12:40 I saw 6 condors in air & at least 3 on the ground (2 at one spot, one 1/4± mile distant). There were at least 3 turkey vultures within 20' of the two condors. Heat waves interfered greatly with vision. I saw another condor go down as if to land in a canyon 1/2± mile N. of the two. I watched the two - at 12:45 there were 6 turkey vultures near them. One condor ran a few steps with wings up - 4 turkey vultures took off but landed 10±' from condor when it stopped. The other condor walked fast toward a standing buzzard - the latter took off when condor 10±' away. 12:59 the two condors stood together; they wrestled with their heads, one bird forcing the other back. Over the condors whorled 5 other condors & 12± turkey vultures - at 12:54 the condors took off & joined the bunch. About 1 mile SW of these about 3 others circled. 12:55 - the lone perched condor also gone. In the low whirling group the condors were mixed in with the vultures - no separation. 1:00, I saw 4 condors in quick succession drop into a hollow about 3/4 mile NE of Rex Corner, & a buzzard leave the hollow, flapping. 1:03, I saw 5 condors low over that spot as

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May 3, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

if they had just taken off. Little Creek, which contains clear running water & is lined at spots with green grass, runs through this feeding area (the 2 with buzzards were 60± ' from it). 1:09, I saw 4 condors standing together on the flat of a valley - one took off to NW & a buzzard landed 20± ' away from them. These birds were about 1 mile S. of the Famoso-Woody road & within vision of it. 1:12, one of the group dashed toward the buzzard - the buzzard flapped away. 1:13, one of the 3 left. 1:14, a second left, taking off into the wind (NW) with 14 flaps. 1:15, the 3rd. off, also to NW. 1:16, I saw at least 5 in air, & about 12 turkey vultures, scattered for about 1 mile & up to 500± ' altitude. I investigated the ~~on~~ spot where I first saw condors feeding this morning. There was a very maggoty squirrel in the hole, 6± " from top of ground. It had head skinned & some other body areas peeled. I pulled a leg - it pulled off easily because of rottenness. I visited the spot where I had seen the 2 condors with several buzzards near Little Creek - the ~~spot~~ birds proved to be about 15' from creek & 200± yds. from road at closest point. I could find no squirrel remains but a strong stench of rotten squirrel came from at least one hole (sense of smell evidence ?). I drove down ~~to~~ Little Creek east of the Porterville road. I stopped

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to ~~che~~ check on what some buzzards were ~~to~~ feeding on, & 4 condors flushed from a side canyon about 800 yds. ahead of me (my disturbance probably). The last took off about 1 minute after the others. Breeze was now lightonly. I stayed in the car - at 1:55 only one condor remained in sight, about 800' over the area where the 4 were, & it wandered slowly E. in an aimless manner (½± mile E. of me at 2 p.m.). 2:03, 2 appeared from W. at about 300' altitude; and I saw one go down behind a hump 1± mile to NE & a buzzard come flapping up from that area. 2:15, I saw 3 with about 15 buzzards circling about 1 mile SE of Ref-Corner. 2:18, I saw a condor with 4 buzzards in the grain field just SE of Ref-Corner - this bird took 30 successive flaps in heading N. up a draw without apparently gaining altitude. I went to about 3/4 mile E. of that area & saw a condor standing near 3 turkey vultures in the rather sparse grain field. at 2:25 this bird took off with 27 flaps. The flapping ceased when bird had turned 180° from its takeoff run direction (to NW) and was 15±' above the ground. There was a 3± second pause, then 5 flaps. The buzzards remained perched. The adult had pecked at the ground area as if feeding. Breeze fair at times, light at times from NW. 2:30, I saw one condor & 9 turkey vultures

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circling over the grain field. At 2:55 I saw at least 2 on the ground on a hill & possibly 3 circling over about 2 miles E. of Rex-Corner. I drove about 1½ miles E. of Rex-Corner & saw 2 condors at 3 p.m., at about 200' altitude, circling near buzzards over the N. slope of ridge S. of (& parallel to) the road. One, an adult with #1 & (about) right primaries missing, worked westward, ~~& was~~ along the ridge & was about 1 mile west of its 3 p.m. position at 3:10. I talked again with Joe Keyes & a county agriculture man who was showing him around. They had seen a condor near Poso Creek at about 2:15. Joe said the latest he saw them last year was 5 p.m. (daylight saving). The county man said that the eastern boundary of the poisoning was the Edison power line about 3 miles east of the Porterville road. At present they were poisoning on the Famoso side of the Porterville road NW of Rex-roth Corner. The area to S. of the Famoso-Woody road was poisoned "about a week ago" (several condors in that area today. He said there were about 3000 sheep in this area about 4 weeks ago & up to 10,000 earlier - these had been moved to the desert (Inyokern country). By 4 p.m. saw no more condors. Returned to Delano for the night.

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May 4, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

Left Delano at 7 a.m. & drove via McFarland to Reyroth Corner (arrived 8 a.m.). I parked about ½ mile E. of the Corner. At 8:04 I saw a condor circling about 2 miles E. of me. Light NW breeze, sky 1/10 cumulus, air warm. I saw only 2 or 3 buzzards at this time. This condor rose from about 300 to 1000 ft. by 8:10, wandering ½± mile N + S as it rose. at 8:20 I lost it at about same position - 2 buzzards were close to ground below. at 8:30 I saw 2 condors + 4± buzzards about 3 miles to E. of me. These birds were all in the direction of Oak Flat Lookout from Reyroth Corner (#), the lookout & Breckenridge Mtn. beyond being discernible today. I then drove to a hilltop about 1 mile E. of Reyroth Corner & 300± yds. S. of Little Creek. From there at 8:50 I saw 4 condors circling from 50 to 500' over the hills about 2 miles to NE of me, & about 7 buzzards in the same area - this was apparently near the high-tension power line which was the E. (& most recent) boundary of the poisoned area. 65°F., wind faint to fair from NW (the prevailing direction I am told by airmen here). The 4 went down out of sight. at 9:05, 4 again appeared there, rising, occasionally flapping. 9:08, I saw 6 circling at 400±' in that area. This group scattered, & at about 9:14 I saw 1 or 2 go behind a hill about 2 miles

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May 4, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

to E. of me, just beyond ~~high~~ the power line. 9:19, a lone adult soared W. from power line vicinity, 100±' over the hills, & at 9:20 dropped into a hollow about 3/4 mile N. of me (closest condor I have seen so far today). I believe this bird landed. A maneuver often seen at low altitude is the dipping of one wing tip followed by a steep bank to that side - perhaps the dip is the result rather than the cause of the bank, the upcurved primaries snapping down when the turn commences. 1 or 2 buzzards flew out of the hollow where the close condor alighted. Back to Joe Keyes: he believes many ~~cat~~ buzzards are shot along the roads so is fearful of publicizing the condors because they too might attract shooters. Blue Mtn. Lookout can also be observed from this spot, so both Blue Mtn. & Oak Flat Lookouts should see condors. 9:30, the close adult flapped SW (down canyon) out of the hollow where it disappeared, then circled & rose, 2 buzzards apparently following it in air. Feeding (?) time here not over 10 minutes - apparently a squirrel does not keep a condor occupied long. The close adult rose to 300±', the buzzard "escort" left, and (10:35) adult headed to NE in a long glide to join a group of 10 condors circling about 2 miles NE of me. I counted at least 14, possibly 16, at 9:39. Most glided

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May 4, 1946 Mt. Famoso, Calif.

to SW & at 9:45 a group of 10 (+1 buzzard) milled about 1½ miles E. of me at 200-800' altitude. The group broke up within a minute, a few ~~several~~ birds straggling back to NE at a time, & all strung out for about 1½ mile at 9:47. Counted 11 at 9:50 - along the power line area toward Blue Mtn. from me. Twice this morning I saw one condor chase another briefly, both banking sharply with wings strongly flexed, & at least once attacker had feet down. 9:57, 6 were over the power line area in Blue Mtn. direction, & ~~2+~~ 3 in a circling group 1st mile E. of me, 2 or 3 others scattered about 2 miles E. of me. All seemed to B-line toward a spot about 3 miles ESE of me where buzzards & condors were milling - at least 5 condors there at 10:02, some dipping out of sight in the hills. I saw one condor apparently land just out of sight in that area - about ¼ mile E. of the power line - at 10:07, then no activity at that spot. I scanned the horizon but found no condors. At 10:15 I saw one land atop the hummock behind which the 10:07 bird disappeared, then I saw at least one other ~~pe~~ perched there & another about 100 yds. to E. across a dip. One bird from hummock flew across the dip & landed by other - a few seconds later one of these (same I believe) flew out of sight behind the hummock, & the other took off at 10:24. I then saw 3 and 5± buzzards circling over the

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May 4, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

hummock area as if leaving, & none ~~perched~~ on ground. One bird in taking off downhill took 3 flaps only, then glided. 10:28, saw 6 condors scattered in air over the hummock area - Oak Flat 10 directly beyond this spot. 10:38, saw 5 condors & 1 buzzard circling over & dipping behind a knoll 1/2 ± mile N. of the hummock. 10:40, 6 dipping behind the knoll & 2 others 400±' over them. Apparently the birds were rising from that area - there were 5 scattered to 1000±' altitude over the spot at 10:45. 10:48, 8 scattered over that area, most heading N ± slowly at 400± 'altitude. 10:50, I saw 4 condors & 12± buzzards circling about 1 1/2 miles NE of me, & 1 with (over) 6± buzzards in same vicinity, ~~while~~ while 4± other condors approached from S±. 11:08, I saw 2 condors among 12± buzzards near power line to ESE (near hummock where I saw some land earlier); at least one went down as if to land. Apparently the condors are scattered for about 2 miles near the power line (beyond to E., this side to NE). None has come closer than about 1 mile to the Porterville road. I moved then to a knoll about 2 miles E. of Rexroth Corner & 1/2 ± mile S. of Little Creek. ~~At~~ at 11:30 from there I saw an adult cruising about 1/2 mile N. of me - at 11:33 it dropped ~~out~~ behind a ridge (to near Little Creek), & a second adult did likewise at 11:34, while another with feet down, circled 300±' overhead as if to land. Interrupted

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May 4, 1946 Nr. Famoso Calif.

then by Joe Keyes. At 11:38 saw 2 adults rising from that area (& 4 buzzards). Keyes said they saw 4 adults circling near Granite Station at 10 a.m. They also flushed one which was feeding "with a buzzard" near the Famoso road. Joe Keyes records: May 5, 1 imm. May 21, 7 adults + 1 imm. May 22, 3 adults + 1 young. May 27, 6 adults + 1 young. May 25, 1 adult + 7 imm. feeding at 1 spot; watched from about 100 yds. That day saw 16 at once. He saw 8 or 9 feeding on a dead calf on Tejon Ranch. At 11:57 I saw 5 with 8± buzzards rising about 3/4 mile to N., + 3 cruising about 1 mile to E. Talked with Keyes till about 12:08. He said the area E. of the power line + S. of Famoso road had been searched about a week ago - condors were landing on the ground there today. About 12:10 I saw 5 condors with 20± buzzards circling about 1 mile to E. This group broke up and a group of 3 or 4 condors + 15± buzzards formed over Little Creek about 3/4 miles to N. of me - I saw no condors alight by 12:25. One imm. (quite dark wing lining) circled 100±' over me for about 4 minutes, then headed off to join a group. This imm. had a protruding gray "crop button" 12:45, I saw 7 in air + 2 perched on ground in the Little Creek canyon about over the road. at least 2 imm. I saw one adult with #6 & 7

Ford

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 4, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

left primaries, shot or missing. This one landed in a canyon about 1/4 mile W. of me. I drove to the ridge crest + saw 4 buzzards on the ground + the adult 100±' from them (+ about 50 yds. from me). The adult took off + flap-circled vigorously to clear the area. I found no "meat" where the condor had been, but the buzzards left a squirrel tail, ~~skt~~ skull, inside out legs, a 6±" piece of damp skin, + a broken up rib cage. At 1:11 I was on a ridge 1/4± mile S. of Little Creek looking N., + I saw 4 (adults) condors + 2 turkey vultures perched on the open ground 1/4± mile N. of the creek. I saw one adult take off to N. about 1:14, + the others disappeared (behind ridge & judge). This spot was about 2 miles E. of Rexroth Corner. At 1:40 I was 300± yds. from 11 turkey vultures standing on a slope. An adult condor, feet down, was soaring near - it passed 100±' over the buzzards + continued on. A near-adult with 2 gaps in left secondaries + #4± right primary out also passed over the group ~~without~~ turning back. This second bird went 1/2± mile S., circled, then soared back 100±' over buzzards (1:50), then headed N. + after 1/2± mile again circled at about 200' altitude, then headed N. again in a wandering manner. Condors thereafter became scarce. At 2:15 I saw one flap-circling + descending as if to land about 1 1/2 mile NE of Rexroth Corner, + at 2:20 another at 500±' altitude

Ford

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in that area - there were 10± buzzards scattered also in that vicinity. 2:23, again saw 2 condors in same vicinity - one spiraled down sharply, wings flexed, ~~feet~~ feet down, as if to land, & the other continued soaring ~~of~~ back & forth at 300±' altitude. The latter circled & rose downwind until at about 2000' altitude, then glided steadily toward Fulton Pk. in the distance as if "going home". A fair NW breeze continued. 2:45, I saw 2 beyond the power line about 3/4 miles to E. of the Corner - circling. ~~3.~~ 2:48, I saw 4 condors & 13± buzzards circling in a loose group about 1½ miles NE of the Corner. I watched one - it wandered about 1 mile SE, then back over the others at high altitude (1500±'). At 2:58 I saw 3 condors spiraling down, legs extended, over the same area as before (out of my sight behind a hill). I drove toward that spot but the condors - 6 of them - flushed when I was out of sight so that I couldn't see upon what they were feeding (3:15). Two seemed to ~~do~~ alight 1/4± mile distant after 1± minute, & 4 adults circled near the car at 100±' altitude. Two adults showed the distended "crop" area & 2 did not. ~~2~~ 3:23, the 4 circled over the area 1/4± mile W. of where flushed, 3 with feet down. Perhaps they were not disturbed by the car. One parachuted down at 3:25 & another glided into the hollow with feet not extended. ~~All 4~~ + three were "in" by 3:26½, & the remaining

Cord

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one flap-glided back & forth, feet not down (distended crop one). 3:29, 6 condors & 3 turkey vultures rose out of the hollow, undisturbed by me. a transport plane had just passed 5000± ' over in about the direction of the sun, however. 3:33, an imm. dropped into the hollow as if to land; an adult swept back & forth over the hollow, feet up, then flap-glided to S. (~~after~~ direction of the other condors) at 3:35. About 3:36 I saw one disappear behind a ~~hill~~ hill 1/2± mile SW of where last rose; another soared back & forth over the spot. ~~4:20~~ 3:40, two condors came ~~flapp~~ flapping up from that area; 1 adult headed back to where imm. had disappeared, & also disappeared behind ridge. I saw 3 others also heading that way. The 3 were over the spot at 3:45 but wandered off to ~~E.~~ E. about 3:46. 3:53, 3 condors again over that spot. One had a left primary & secondary bent up as if broken - possibly these 3 included the 2 which were supposedly perched. One adult circled & rose with a buzzard - as though condors near. This one rose to 500± ' near me, then? 4:00, I watched another about 1 mile NE of the Corner - it was the 'bent wing' bird. It rose to about 800' altitude, soared NE about 2 miles, then W. about a mile & was joined by another condor. Both wandered to E. then (4:09) & I saw a 3rd. about 1/2 mile E. of the two. Breeze still

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light to fair from NW. I saw one up to 4:15 at about 1500' altitude about 6 miles NE of Rosedale Corner - "going home" I judge. I searched the area where I estimated the 6 condors had been - I found many squirrel holes, but in 15 minutes search found no suitable food. I did find 3 squirrel remains - 2 dessicated & little better than skeletons, the third dried rather recently. This last had skin turned inside out, the bones of hind legs being pulled out of their skin. The skull was nearly intact tho holes had been eaten in the hide near ears. all viscera gone but most of backbone remained. The tail was present with hair on but detached from body in the other two. Skulls & backbone were fairly intact. This is probably buzzard - condor work. About 1/2 mile W. of the power line within 200 yds. of the road I found 3 squirrels, intact, upon which beetles were feeding (too close to road?). I found 1 which was consumed in large part but not turned inside-out. Cars pass on this road perhaps once per hour. My car was stopped & a roadster holding 2 teen agers & a girl stopped nearby, & this conversation ensued: "Hunting?" "Sometimes", I said. "Well there's two big birds - turkeys or something - out in the middle of that field, and they're the biggest ~~things you~~ birds I ever saw." They were turkey vultures - the group's face dropped

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when I explained they were beneficial birds. If this group had been armed, it would have been buzzards or condors funeral. I saw no more condors by 5:30 p.m.

May 5, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

Drove to Rexroth Corner, 7 miles E. of Famoso, thence about 2 miles ~~w~~ E. on the Famoso - Woody road. I picked up a black & white cat & a small jackrabbit on the road for bait - both in the rigor - mortis state & somewhat bloody. I picked up a squirrel about 1 day dead too. Then I shot an old ewe which had been left by the sheepmen (shot about 7:30). I placed these carcases near the crest of a hill about 10 miles E. of & 2 miles N. of Famoso & about 1 mile N. of the road (& Little Creek). I placed my car about 500' to W. of the carcasses & spread a tarp over it, leaving part of ~~the w~~ one window uncovered for observation. I was in this blind at 8:15. Car was parked next to a group of old concrete building foundations about 1 ft. high. At 8:40 a.m. I saw one condor circling about 2 miles to the E., & about 8:43 it seemed to be near Mt. Poso at about 500' altitude. From blind I could look toward Oak Flat & Blue Mtn. lookouts. Breeze was fair from S. ~~be~~ even at 7 a.m. Sky clear. 78° at 8:30 a.m. My bait was about 1/4 mile W. of the Edison power line. 9:08, saw one turkey vulture, first I have seen to -

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day. These seem to arrive & leave at about the same time as the condors but a few may hang around or even roost near the food after condors have departed. 9:12, I saw 2 condors circling about 1/2 mile S. of the bait, upper one with feet down, & a 3rd. 1/4± mile further S. 6 condors & 3 buzzards in a loose group circling 1/2± mile S. of ~~sac~~ bait at 9:15, at 9:17 I saw one adult drop down as if to land near the power line & road about 1/2 ~~mi~~ mile S. of bait. By 9:21 at least 3 condors had landed at that spot (about 100 yds. from power line towers it appeared). One turkey vulture passed 100± ' over the bait, then headed S. 9:24, I saw 5 condors + 6 ± turkey vultures ~~flapgle~~ flapping away to W. of the landing spot over the flat ground. One gave 24 successive flaps. 9:27, I saw another rise flapping from that spot. It flapped seldom when at & above height of power line towers, & rose circling over the spot where it took off. A bunch of condors & buzzards worked nearly over me, & 2 at least (condors) were circling 300± ' over my bait at 9:30. The birds left within 2 or 3 minutes - perhaps they didn't see it. Retrogressing: I watched one bird circling to gain altitude yesterday, and it kept the tail constantly tilted with low side away from the turn. There were no straight stretches in this circling - all curving flight. I watched

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the shadow of one circling & moving downwind. The speed of the bird was quite slow on the turns as compared to the "straightaway" - perhaps 10 m.p.h. on the turn, & 30 m.p.h. on the downwind leg. 9:58, a lone condor soared W. about 1/2 mile S. of the bait. 10:05, I saw one cruising over the hills about 1 mile to S. of bait. 10:15, one circling about 1/2 mile S. of bait at 200±' alt.. 10:50, a raven flew back & forth about 10' over the bait several times, then departed. 10:54, I saw a mature golden eagle feeding on a squirrel(?) about 300 yds. N. of the bait. The eagle picked up the intestine in its bill & cast it aside but ate other morsels it pulled from the carcass. General comment on this feeding area: it is on its way out; the Bakersfield-Porterville road is a recent development. Oil wells are within a mile or so to S. High prices might induce cultivation of this land. The power & telephone lines are a menace to flight. The march of "civilization" will doubtless tend toward more use of this area by people & more disturbance of condors. By 12:00, breeze was NW about 15 m.p.h. No ~~cons~~ more birds had approached the bait. ~~90°F.~~ 85°F. At 12:30 I dismantled my blind - I believe concealment was good as an eagle which had been perched 1/4± mile away for over an hour left quickly when I appeared. I drove toward Rexroth Corner. Condors scarce & buzzards few. at 1:10 I saw

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May 5, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

one condor about 3 miles E. of the Corner - it was joined by a second. Both circled together & worked 1± mile S. over highest hill to 1000±' altitude, then headed E/NE as if going a long way. Breeze lacking at times, about 15 m.p.h. at others, from NW. At 1:40 I saw one about 3 miles E. of Rexroth Corner. Then I drove around the "triangle", seeing no condors, & arriving at the E. apex at about 2:25. From there I saw 4 condors at 2:30 - 3 descended behind a hill 1/2± mile S. of Little Creek & another about 1 1/2 miles to W. was heading that direction. I drove cross country trying to reach the landing area - was stopped by a ravine, but saw one dark imm. soaring close; an adult flap-gliding to W. as if just having taken off, 20±' above ground; & at 3:00 ~~2:40~~ a total of 6 condors in air at once over a 1/2± mile long area (about 4 miles E. of Corner). Most went behind a ridge out of my sight. I drove to top of a knoll just S. of Little Creek to watch. Fair NW breeze at 3 p.m. The condors apparently escaped without my seeing them. At 3:45 saw one condor (or eagle) circling & rising about 2 miles S. of me - it rose to 1500±' as if to glide off toward Breckenridge Mtn.. I saw no birds near my "bait" from a distance. Saw none by 4 p.m. Breeze continued. I returned to Delano. G R Buckingham says morning breeze is generally SE, then shifts to NW in this area

Ford

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May 5, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

Last evening Buford Fox called my aunt & told her that 21 condors had been seen on Tejon Ranch to S. of the Lase Station road about 6 miles E. of the highway (99).

May 6, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

Drove from Delano to Reproth Corner, arriving 8:05 a.m. I proceeded up Woody road & examined my bait of yesterday - it was untouched, but now the sheep was bloated & several hundred flies crawled & buzzed around the carcass. I proceeded to top of the knoll where I made last observations last night - about 11 miles E. of Famoso, 1/4± mile S. of Little Creek. Saw no turkey vulture until 8:49 (then 1). Breeze light from N. at about 8 a.m., fair from SW by 9 a.m. 9:05, I saw 5 buzzards in air. Sky clear, 83°F. 9:18, I saw one condor about 2 1/2 miles to SE (almost directly toward Bear Mtn.). This bird dipped behind a hill. At 9:37 I saw one condor + 8± turkey vultures in same area over furthest hills I could see in Bear Mtn. direction. This one dipped out of sight between 2 hills, along with 5± buzzards. 9:52, I saw one condor rising over that area, feet down, with 7± buzzards. Breeze NW, ~~7~~ 15± m.p.h. & stronger. 10:01, I watched an apparent adult in that area for about 5 minutes until it spiraled slowly down, legs extended & disappeared between the hills. 10:07 I saw another soaring there &

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May 6, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

watched it constantly until 10:20. It circled at 300±' altitude, giving an occasional wing dip or half dip. Then it bore NW in a long glide until about over Little Creek 2± miles E. of Porterville road, then circled - saw a total of 4 condors scattered there at about 10:23. At 10:25 saw another at 200±' altitude, circling, 2± miles toward Bean Mtn. again. I saw 2 near the power line about 1 mile to W. of me at 10:34 - I watched the higher one, at 1000±' altitude, until 10:52. It circled & wandered to W. for about a mile, then N. about 1 mile, then descended to 500±' with several wing dips & passed the vicinity of my "bait"; then continued off to N. until about 2 miles N. of me (where I lost it). ~~At~~ 11:20, I saw one about 300' over the power line to W. of me & watched it until 11:39. It headed W. about 1 mile to a group of circling turkey vultures & circled with them at 100±', then rose as the buzzards rose (12+ turkey vultures), with them, near the bottom of the column of vultures, then near the top as the whirling group flattened at 500±', then alone above them to about 1000' altitude. I timed about 5 circles - they were 16 or 17 seconds each. Condor turned one circle to vulture's 2 - almost exact ratio. Condor then headed SE in a long glide

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May 6, 1996 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

until I lost it at 11:39 when it was about 2 miles to S. toward Bear mtn. I saw a golden eagle flapping close to ground today & noted that the spread tail moved up & down with the wing beat - possibly to steady pitching caused by wing flapping (do condors do this too?). 11:53, I saw 3 about 1/2 mile W. of power line over the Little Creek ridge (S. side). One circled with 6± vultures & 2 dipped below a ridge 1/4± mile N. of them. The Little Creek ridge near the power line has been one of most frequented areas in last few days - apparently on the flight line to SE. Have seen no activity near my "bait". Two cars stopped yesterday afternoon near there & were "jaliking" with rifles out of the cars - apparently ~~there~~ they were shooting at squirrels; condors & buzzards had left the area by that time of afternoon. 12:03, I saw 5 or 6 condors scattered over 1/2± mile area about 1/2 mile W. of where power line crossed Little Creek ridge. At 12:06 I saw but 3, from 500±' to 2000±' altitude, over that area; they drifted W., then descended to 300±' level. Then I watched lowest one - it wandered northward, then (12:28) was joined by 2 others, & all were heading NW about 2 miles NE of Rexroth Corner when I lost them at 12:33. Breeze strong at times, lacking at others, but ~~N~~ northerly. 83°F. I left the area & drove to Poso via Granite Canyon. Most of the road was

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May 6, 1946 Kern Co., Calif.

lined with oil wells. At Paso were 80± Hereford's + a Kern Co. Land Co. sign - so, some stock in the area. A high bare hill just SE of Paso might ~~mage~~ make a good station for watching condors passing over. Thought: baiting condors is much like baiting trout (smart trout). It apparently can't be figured always. Different lures, areas, concealment, are tried - sometimes they work but often results are unpredictable. Apparently trout - & condors - like to be fed what they are naturally feeding on at the time, so should use cattle bait in cattle country, squirrel in squirrel country, etc. Drove on to Bakersfield + saw Buford Fox. He said a man on the poisoning crew had made the 21 condor report + that the crew was now camped at the old ostrich farm. Fox said the birds were seen "one day last week". Fox also said he saw 1 on Tejon Ranch a few days ago (near headquarters). I drove eastward then to Bena + started scanning Mt. Adelaide area from the roadside at 3:20. At 3:30 I saw 3 condors at about level of top of Mt. Adelaide + near it, heading N or NW. I watched one - it disappeared behind a ridge 2± miles ~~E of~~ W. of Mt. top at 3:38, heading in Kern River power plant (& Paso) direction. Then I saw one (one of same 3?) ~~next~~ ~~ago~~ near mountain top again, + it followed a similar course. Fair breeze from W., clear sky. Saw none by 4 p.m.

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May 6, 1946 Tejon Ranch, Calif.

so proceeded on around Kern Mesa, stopping several times to scan Bear Mtn., but saw no condors by 5 p.m. The Kern Mesa & Elmon areas had hundreds of Hereford cattle - unusually heavy concentration. At Tejon Ranch, Perry Sprague told me he had seen one condor with several turkey vultures a few days ago, on the ground, on El Paso Creek above headquarters. He said that many years ago, (about 45 yrs.), condors roosted on old dead pines on Breckenridge Mtn. in upper part of Lucas Creek canyon, where the road reached the first pines. Sprague's father used to log up there, & Perry worked there - he said that they were always interested in "the vultures". Perry also worked at Weed Patch, at a mine near Frazier Park, & other spots about since before 1900. He said that the condor numbers seemed about the same now as 40 years ago. For information on condors on the San Emidio side of the valley, he suggested especially Gene Harris who lives on Salt Creek (road taken off near start of Wheeler Ridge Oil Field road). Salt Creek Pete (a Frenchman) and another old timer live up Salt Creek. The Tejon blacksmith, Morton, worked on San Emigdio Ranch a long time & may have info too. He suggested also Raleigh Duntley who lives on Oak Creek south of Tehachapi - Duntley runs cattle on the S. side of the Tehachapis from Cottonwood Creek to near Mojave

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May 6, 1946 Tejon Ranch, Calif.

Perry retold me the story of how he caught a condor in the "Thompson Field" on the ranch. He was driving in his car when he came upon the bird, & he followed he- Perry headed off the bird with his car several times, thus preventing it from taking off, & he found he equed outrun the bird at about. hind it as the bird flew, then landed. Perry caught it with a lasso & put it in the back of his coupe: he had difficulty in "lassing" the bird as "it was slicker with its wings". He heard a great noise in there & peeked in to find the bird ~~shaking a~~ thrashing a pair of skid chains about. Perry kept the bird several hours, showing it to people, then put it in a chicken wire ~~cage~~ cage (about 15'x20'). In the morning it was gone, the cage wire apparently having been cut in a vertical line. Perry thinks one of the Indians turned it loose. Perry was going to notify J R Lambert to see if anyone wanted it. On another occasion, Perry tells, he came over a ridge onto a coyote carcass. They had been poisoning coyotes with strychnine filled tallow balls at that time. There were eight condors around this large (about 35 lbs.) coyote. One grabbed the animal in its bill, lifted it, & shook it, then dropped it. Then the same bird pecked at it, breaking the skin, & the group moved in. Sprague, of course, tells a good story though basic facts are correct. He said condors nested once in a pine tree on Breckenridge Mtn.. I talked with the ~~Fat~~ Tejon Ranch blacksmith, Norton (or Morton). He was very loquacious but knew

Norton - 6 on Spanish Ranch

2 - between Mill Potrero

1 - caught on Salt Creek.
2 his stolen

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May 6, 1946 Tejon Ranch, Calif.

the ~~dear~~ field marks of condors. He had spent years in the San Emigdio country. He said that once he saw "~~two~~ one pair" below Mill Potrero. Recently he saw "three pair" near Spanish Ranch (Chimneas area). Another time, he said, he & another man caught a condor on Salt Creek near Black Bob Canyon. The bird had been feeding, apparently, & it had difficulty in taking off in the canyon. Two men caught it in "about 2 hours". Later they freed it. It stood on a rock about 15 minutes, then took off. He said the bird had large talons with which it grabbed them. Norton also makes a good story - but maybe he did catch a condor or other large bird.

May 7, 1946 Tejon Ranch, Calif.

Tony Araujo, Tejon head vaquero for years & a man of high intelligence, said he believed there were more condors than formerly on the ranch. I drove to a point about 2 miles N. of the foot of Pastoria Creek canyon & watched that area, & N. to the Grapevine, from 8 to 10 a.m. - I saw no condors, & but a few buzzards & ravens. Warm clear day, fair northerly breeze. Mrs. Percy said she had seen an eagle chasing a condor near foot of Hopper Canyon a few days ago. They seldom saw condors ~~that~~ law, she said. In general, on the Potrero alto Ranch, they saw most condors on cool

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May 7, 1946 Fillmore, Calif.

windy days & less on warm calm days, she said. Sid Peyton told me that on May 1, near West Fork of the Sespe, he saw 6 condors "playing" in air. Sid P. Jr. told me that May 4 he was on the road above Val Verde (near Castaic) & saw one condor feeding on a squirrel there, near the road. Mrs. Percy said she had met a man who had been fishing in the Sisquoc, & that he said he had seen condors there.

May 8, 1946.

Fog in Fillmore. Rode up to Turner Oil Co. with Pete Legan. He said a scoutmaster (Oakland) named Cain & another man had been up May 3 & had seen a condor in the dead trees by the road. We arrived at Peter at 10:10, 500± ' above the fog. I hiked then to Hopper Rim. At 10:50 I saw one adult perched quietly on a top stub (12±") limb of a dead Ps. at head of Parking Canyon about 200' W. of the road. This was about 3rd. highest tree. The bird paid no great attention to me & remained upright, back to road, as I passed (I was 15± ' higher than bird) it at 11:00. I went then to where Work & Hill had the calf carcass on April 28. Only 6± bone fragments remained, the largest being the lower jaw (one posterior area broken). Apparently carnivora had been at work. I saw no hide or hair, nor any feathers, excrement, or other sign of condor presence. I

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May 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

returned then from Big Meadow to the Rim. The adult was perched as before at 11:45. Air was nearly calm, so I suppose this adult was becalmed. Saw no condors in the Big Cave or other oft frequented areas. Water ran at Condor Falls but perhaps not above Big Cave. I hiked northward along the road. The adult was as before at 11:55, then at 11:57 I saw one in air just W. of Pyramid Lookout. This was an adult with short #7 right primary, and a bulging "crop". The perch was bare - so probably the bird from perch. This adult skirted the cliffs along Hopper Rim going southward & rounded Parking Knoll ~~without~~ before crossing Rim to E. A bird not hungry & flight difficult because of dead air = perched bird near ridge at mid-day. I continued on up the Rim arriving at Old Cabin at 12:25 and at White Point at 1:35. I inspected the old horse carcass - it showed no evidence of condor visitation, but ravens & mammalian scavengers had moved it & removed most of the meat - the stench was still there. Visited then my camp & left there at 2:15 heading for Pete Legan's on the road. The low fog had dissolved about noon leaving a ~~heavy~~ heavy rising haze. Breeze fair from S. at times after 12M but calm at times too. Saw 6± turkey vultures. At 2:30 an immature soared near me near Small Meadow Pass. It had #1± left primary short, the "pointed" tail, & dark center to under wing patches. It circled

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May 8, 1946 Hopper Canyon, Calif.

over the slopes near North Point. The haziness increased - could not see even Bear Heaven by 3 p.m. I saw no condor until 3:41 when near Parking Canyon. One adult, "crop" bulging, came in from W., gave a wing dip, & sped into lower Parking Canyon as if toplight. I judged soaring conditions poor at that time. Reached Lyon's at about 4:15. Apparently no water atop Big Cave. The falls of North Creek was dry. Roosting probably would be on Arundell Ridge now instead of near Big Cave, but apparently very few condors in this area now.

May 10, 1946 Pasadena, Calif.

Phoned C S Robinson at San Bernardino (Forest Supervisor's office). Re condors he said none had been reported east of Josephine Pk. (Angeles N.F.) in recent years; except 1 man, supposedly reliable, who said 3 came in annually at a place on the San Bernardino N.F. (report sent to Croxemillar). Robinson offered to take me to see this man on a future trip. Visited Mr Dunham, district ranger of Arroyo Seco District, Angeles N.F. He said he had seen 2 at Altmore Meadows (nr. Sawmill Mtn.) about 12 years ago. He had been ranger on the Newhall District from 1931-1934, & Arroyo Seco for last 10 years. He was skeptical of reports made by some lookouts as he had had a turkey vulture pointed out to him as a condor

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May 10, 1946 Pasadena, Calif.

by ~~Alt~~ Al Fisher (?) on Josephine Pk. once. There is a fine relief map of the Angeles including Pine Creek in the office here (281 E. Colorado - Post Office Bldg.). The recent lookout of Josephine Pk. is Stan H. Barnum of 1021 Fairview Drive, La Cañada, & he will go up to Josephine Pk. about mid-June. At Newhall talked with Ranger McCormack & assistant Howard Evans. McCormack said that condors were reported from West Liebre & Whitaker Pk. in this district occasionally. He said that he saw 9 once near Big Pine Lookout (w. of it) in April of about 1934 when with C S Robinson. Evans said he had seen 2 (?) near Alpine Mdws. near Palmdale, once (I doubt his identification), that he had spent considerable time on Liebre Mtn. last summer but had seen none, & that his father caught one once (bird feeding by roadside, couldn't take off — turkey vulture probably). McCormack volunteered to instruct his lookouts to watch for condors & record information thereon.

May 11, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

Arrived at Reppath Corner, 7 miles E. of Famoso, at 9:30. Visited then my "bait" of several days ago. There was one condor feather (back) at the

39-43 1 + down to S

46 - 2, down

50 - 1, fl. - then 4 at 52.

54 5, with 6± hey., on a c.

1 over me 10:00 - at my [illegible], + left #4± on. ckt.

10:01 - 2nd od. - left SV.

03 - 3 over S. on. ckt.

10:09 - 1 down hey. burn, 1 over, 1 3/4 mi. to S.

10:16 - last 2nd over burn.

:18, 2 to S 1 1/2 m., 2 to E. 1 1/2 mi.

(so 6 total).

comber tree top ass on fl gl,

22:- 1 down high hill 2 mi. to SE.

25 - 1 1 1/2 mi to E - wandered. 31, 1st down + down 1 mile E. on my mdlg. 35 - 1 circl. over there - same? Ad., left my rapid + slot at rear tail. :40, 2, ab. 1 mile to SE me. Same as earl. No crap bulge.

43 - desc. high hill 1 mile SE.

46 - 2nd there - spen. down -

49 - 1 over burn., 51 - 2.

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~~Mo. PD~~
Nr. Famoso, Calif.

carcasses. The sheep had been dragged 20' downhill (5 ± %), the ~~viscera~~ intestine lay separate from the carcass, one foreleg was skinned to the wrist though bones intact & connected. There was a 10 ± " hole in left side, a larger one in abdomen, a 12 ± " hole at shoulders (& eaten to bone), & other holes. Skin remained on head. Skin was dry now. The cat & rabbit lay where before but apparently had been eaten at skull & side, cat ~~wo~~ intestine was separate from carcass, & one foreleg of each was separated from body - bodies both dry. The squirrel was not found. I went then to a knoll about 4 miles E. of Berrath Corner & 1/4 mile S. of Little Creek. At 9:15 arrived & began searching - at 9:22 I saw one condor about 1 1/2 miles to S., circling 300 ± ' over a knoll - about 3 minutes later it descended ~~into~~ between two hills, wings flapped, feet down. Fair N. breeze, ~~sky~~ sky ~~has~~ hazy but cloudless, 62°F. At 9:39 I saw one above the power line about 1 mile N. of me - it glided ~~to~~ SE and went down out of sight at 9:43 (about 2 miles in 4 minutes, 30 m.p.h.). At 9:46 I saw 2 circling low there, flapping frequently (about 1 1/2 miles S. of me). ~~9:50, saw 4~~ 9:52, I saw 4 there, & 5 at 9:54, circling & rising, with 6 buzzards. After 1 ± min-

Gymnogyps californianus

May 11, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

longs top of 3090

seen there earlier. "Ragged" had no "prop bulge". 10:43, one, & 10:46, the other, disappeared behind a hill as if to land. 10:49, I saw 1, & at 10:51, 2, circling near the burn.

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ute the group scattered. 1 passed over me heading NW at 10:00 (adult). This one had ragged tip right wing (RRW), a slat in left side of tail, & short #4± left primary. 10:01 a second adult passed 1/4 mile S. of me also gliding NW. 10:03, I saw 3 still circling 1 1/2 ± mi. to S.. 10:09, one of the adults went down about 2 miles to NW of me just beyond a burned area. This grass had been burned since my last visit & was about 6 acres in extent & located about at the center of the road "triangle". I saw the poisoners car on the Porterville road W. of ~~that~~ area this morning. ~~It~~ The second condor was over the burn, & another was about 3/4 mile S. of me. 10:16, I lost the one over burn. 10:18, there were 2 about 1 1/2 miles S. of me, 2 more about 1 1/2 miles to E., ~~&~~ so 6 total (including 2 at burn). 10:22, I saw one descend behind a hill about 2 miles to SE of me (halfway to an oil derrick). 10:25, saw 1 still about 1 1/2 miles to E. & watched it - it wandered about at 100±' altitude, put feet down at 10:31, & descended as if to alight about 1 mile E. of me. In going down, flexed wings appear ⌒ from front & the turns are much faster & shorter than in ~~the~~ normal "searching" flight. 10:35, I saw one circling in ~~that~~ vicinity again - it was the "ragged" one again. 10:40, I saw 2 there - ~~probably~~ possibly the same as

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 11, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

~~seen there earlier. "Ragged" had no crop bulge. 10:43, one, 10:46, the other, disappeared behind the hill as if to land. 10:49 I saw 1 over the burn, & 10:51, 2 there.~~

11:00, the ragged one & another adult were about 1/2 mile S. of me, circling, at about 300' ("ragged") and 100' (the 2 others). The 2 low ones ~~skimmed~~ skimmed 30±' over the hills at times & frequently flapped, while "ragged" climbed to 600±; then headed to NW in a long flex-glide (~~10:04~~ 11:04). ~~10:~~ 11:08, I saw one about 100' over the burn. Looking S. then I saw 2 (same as earlier?) circling, flapping, & rising rapidly about 1 1/2 miles S. of me. Fair NW breeze still, sky 1/10 cumulus. Two buzzards circled near the condors. I lost these about 11:15. No watching then until 11:45. 11:52, I saw 2 flap-gliding at 500±' about 2 miles ESE of me. They soared close together, then glided fast, descending, & at 11:55 I saw 2 other condors circling with several buzzards below them. 11:58, I saw 1 condor about 2 miles to SE & watched it. It circled at 300±', ~~aimlessly~~ lessly, then put feet down (11:58) & glided down in a gradual spiral, disappearing between 2 hills at 12:03. I saw a second condor also ~~sp~~ spiral down there. 12:05, I saw 5 with 1 buzzard circling low near edge of the burn. I then shot a few squirrels, then proceeded toward Pesroth Corner. When 2± miles E. of corner, I saw 2 condors & 4± turkey vultures standing on the ground 100±' S. of Little Creek near a telephone pole. This was

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about 200 yds. from road on lease, & a truck had just been by there. I stopped on road & saw adult pecking at an object (squirrel?) on the ground. The immature took off 30± sec. later - a dark imm. with ~~notch~~ slat in center each wing & left side tail. The adult took off to N E with 3 or 4 hops about 30 sec., later, then the buzzards. Both condors flap circled until 100±' high, then glided off (~~adult to NW, imm to~~ (adult to NW). Then I drove toward the spot where the condors had been, & at 11:08, upon coming over the last rise before reaching Little Creek, I came upon a dark immature taking off about 100' from me. This bird was off in about 3 gallops, then flapped & circled until 200± above me at 1:12. I examined the area where this youngster had taken off & found one ground squirrel which had apparently been dead a week or more. It lay about 8" below surface of the ground on the ramp leading into burrow, & was visible from above only. Skull, upper foreleg, & upper ribs were fairly cleaned of meat. The carcass stunk & was infested with beetle larvae. Skin gone from rib & shoulder area forward to eyes, & opened over abdomen. ~~I should~~ Tail & hind quarters intact. This was 20±' from Little Creek which ran a good stream. The other 2 condors

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May 11, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Calif.

had been across the stream about 50 yds. away. I investigated that area & found two stinking & partly dried squirrel bodies. Some meat was left in a pliable state. Where adult was standing, the squirrel had a 1" square piece of hide plucked off. This one had one hind leg missing & a hole at throat & side. The other carcass also stunk & was drying up fast, & both had beetles (Staphylinids they appeared). This carcass had rear half missing & a detached hind leg close by. Apparently then the birds "go for" old meat ~~at too~~ much of the time. About 6' from where I examined first squirrel, I found a rattlesnake in a squirrel hole (& shot snake). Another possible bird menace. This spot where telephone line crosses Little Creek seems to be a favorite - saw condors on ground here before. Then set out 2 freshly shot squirrels (abdomens ripped open) and the snake near my former bait (above). Then drove to center of the "burn" but saw no condors nearby; did see 2 circling low ~~with~~ with several turkey vultures about 1 mile SE of where power line crosses Famoso road, at (1:55), & about 2 p.m. saw 1 descend about 1 mile S. of same point. Fair breeze continued. At 2:48 I was back at my first observation station about 4 mi. E. of Refroth Corner. I saw then 4 condors & 8± turkey vultures circling 100'-500' over

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a spot 2± miles S. of me as if rising from spot where I saw first few today. By 2:55 I saw 2 go down as if to alight at 2 different spots 1/2± mile E. of that area. 3:05, I again saw 2 circle down about 1/4 mile apart about 2 miles SE of me. Again saw one descend between the hills somewhat (1/4± mile) W. of the previous 2 at 3:10 3:13, I saw 1 about 2 miles to E.; it soared S. about 2 miles, then N. 1/2± mile & spiraled slowly down between the hills. 3:25, 4 condors & 5 turkey vultures were circling & rising about 2 miles to SSE.. The condors rose to 1000± 'altitude, then at least 2 headed eastward as if "going home". At about 3:40 I saw 2 about 2 miles S. of me, one at 100± ' + 1 at 500± '. Both circled & rose. The lower rose to about level of cumulus clouds (2000± 'altitude) and at 3:45 gave a wing dip & started a long glide in the direction of Breckenridge Mtn. (I suppose the other did likewise). 4 p.m., I saw an adult about 2 miles SSE. It circled & rose to 800± 'altitude, then slowly descended circling & was 100± ' over hills with another condor at 4:07. ~~This~~ Then it rose again & glided SE for perhaps 1 or 2 miles, then circled 4± times & glided S± (lost at 4:17). Then I saw another adult circle & rise ~~& had~~ to 1000± ' about 2 miles S. of me (lost at 4:22). Apparently the "home roost" is to SE of this area. Fair NW wind, sky 1/10 cumulus. Saw no more by 4:30.

ford

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May 12, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Kern Co.

Drove to a point about 11 miles east of Famoso about 1/4 mile S. of Little Creek. Shot several squirrels (Citellus) & placed them, & those shot yesterday, in the open & parked atop a knoll to watch. About 400 yds. SW of me I placed 3 squirrels near top of a hill, & 5 about 700 yards to WSW near top of another hill. From my knoll I could see both spots & also the area where I placed 2 squirrels yesterday. These 10 squirrels were all shot & most had guts protruding through skin. At 9 a.m. I was set to watch; there was a fair breeze from SW, sky clear, considerable haze, 72°F.. 9:22, I saw one condor about 2 miles to SE - it put feet down & descended rapidly ~~to~~ between 2 hills as if to alight. Examined a sheep carcass near my bait this morning - it was several weeks old but had been dragged about 30' downhill from its original position, & ~~dr~~ ground marks indicated it had lain at least a few days at one spot before being moved. Hide & skeleton except for 1 foreleg were ~~on~~ together though there were several large holes in the hide. I found one dark gray down feather - possibly condor - near this carcass. ~~10:3~~ 9:38, I saw 3 condors and 8± turkey vultures circling in vicinity of where the one descended - the birds were mixed and extended from about 50 to 300' ~~f~~ above ground. I watched one then from 9:42 - 9:51. It was about 2 miles to E. at

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May 12, 1946 Nr. Famoso, Kern Co., Calif.

first, heading S. at 300±' above hilltops. It went about 1½ miles S., then NW, tacking into the breeze, feet down, wings flexed, for 3 or 4 minutes, ~~then~~ rising. Then it turned a circle & glided to W. for ½± mile with feet up, then put feet down & spiraled down rapidly & disappeared between two hills (where I saw first descend yesterday). The location of descent was ½± mile NE of a triangulation marker atop a hill - possibly Mt. Poso. One steep bank when descending was accompanied by wingtips bending down on inside of turn. 10:15, I saw 5 circling & rising with several turkey vultures over the canyon just N. of the triangulation mark. ~~10:23-27 I~~ This group, as usual, broke up in a minute or so. 10:23-27 I saw one soaring about 2 miles to SE - it spiraled down, feet hanging, & disappeared between the hills - this bird, & many others, have gone down with pumping oil wells a mile or so in the background. 10:38, I saw 4 & 9 turkey vultures circling & rising about 2 miles to SE. The groups scattered within 2± minutes & the 4 condors headed SW - one went down as if to land at 10:41, & 3 condors with about 10 vultures circled in ~~that~~ vicinity (about 2 miles to SSE). 10:53, I saw 4 circling about ½ mile E. of the triangulation mark, & at 11:01, 1 condor and about 20 turkey vultures in ~~that~~ vicinity. I left my

Gymnogyps californianus

May 12, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

station & drove via Corral Canyon toward Mt. Poso. at 11:48, from the road (about 1/2 mile) I saw one adult & several turkey vultures flying low (50±') over a branch of Poso Creek. At 12 I saw another condor. At 12:05 I was crossing creek about 1/2 mile E. of Mt. Poso (the triangulation mark) & flushed 5 condors from near the creek about 1/4 mile S. of the road. They flapped down canyon ~~about~~ together. An adult & imm. alighted 1/4± mile from where flushed, then took off again about 1 minute later - I had stopped car; this may have disturbed them; they may usually return to their food when disturbed by car. Last building was about 1 mile E. of Mt. Poso. The 5 proved to be 4 imm. & 1 adult. Adult & 1 imm. soared together - they left the others, then returned. all circled & rose, & 3 circled over me at 12:12 when I parked 1/2± mile upstream. Apparently this area had been poisoned not too long ago. I found 2 cottontail rabbits & 1/2 ground squirrel in the open - slightly bloated but not maggoty - by seeing them from the road. Old bones & droppings showed that a large number of sheep formerly inhabited this section (earlier this year). I investigated the area where I flushed the condors (no turkey vultures were with them). about ~~1/2~~ 120 yds. to

Gymnogyps californianus

May 12, 1946 Nr. Mt. Posa, Calif.

N. of the road, 100± W. of Paso Creek, on a 5-10% E. facing short dry grass slope I found where I believe the birds were feeding. I found 2 squirrel tails, with meat & bone pulled out (& skin turned inside out) for basal 3" - these tails were separate from the rest of skeleton. There were two spinal columns with ribs & pelvis attached, one with a single hind leg attached (skinned out & bone cleaned to foot) & the other without. ~~One~~ Two ~~shed~~ skulls, cleaned, & entire except for one arch. A wet twisted shredded piece of skin (about 6 sq. inches). It detached separate foreleg, skin gone to wrist, & fairly cleaned of meat. Ribs were spread wide, the sternum gone, but only a few were broken off. One stomach & intestine, & another stomach. The latter was wet & brown - possibly was regurgitated. Two condor "hackles" were in the vicinity. One entire ramus lay near a skull. The "meat" was scattered over a 20' diameter area. In a walk 100 yds. further down stream I found 3 dead squirrels on open ground - juicy & limp but not maggoty; skin unbroken, eyes dried up - apparently food plentiful here. About 50' upwind from these remains was the stinking corpse of another squirrel - this one was juicy & ~~of~~ soft & much hair had fallen off. Stomach protruded outside the body. Two legs were cleaned of meat & fur to the wrist,

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May 12, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

and one foreleg was missing. This stream - Poso Creek - is here about 2-3' wide & running well, clear water. It is open & the country is free of trees & brush so doubtless condors could drink here. At 12:35 a near-adult circled 1/4± mile from me, then over me (150±') as I examined the remains. I gathered the remains & photographed them - ~~appro~~ at least large portions of both stomachs & both intestines were present. I found only 2 lower rami, & 5 separated legs (one on spine). I saved this material for future study. I left this feeding area at 1:15 & went on to top of Mt. Poso (the triangulation marker). At 1:22 from there I saw 4 condors with several turkey vultures about 1 mile to N., circling low over the hills. I then placed some bait about 500 yds. to W. of top of Mt. Poso ~~near~~ ~~on~~ on top of a ridge where it could be observed. This bait consisted of a highway killed jackrabbit, 2 poisoned cottontails (one bloated), one squirrel shot about 11:30 a.m, one found on the highway, & 1 poisoned - none were over 2 or 3 days dead I would judge, & the jack rabbit killed today probably. Returned to top of Mt. Poso to watch at 1:35. At about 2 p.m. I saw a turkey vulture on the ground about 1 mile to NNE. At 2:12 I noticed a condor there, feeding on some object on the ground at its feet (squirrel probably). A buzzard stood

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 12, 1946 Nr. Mt. Posg Calif.

quietly about 10' downhill from the condor. The condor put head down for 2-5 seconds, then raised it for about the same interval. About 2:20 a second vulture alighted & walked up the slope to near the condor. The condor fed on - it appeared to be an immature with some orange on head. Rarely did over 5 seconds pass without the head coming up for a look around. At times the buzzards seemed within about 6'. At 2:24 a third turkey vulture landed & the 3 stood 15± ' from condor. One vulture walked up to condor, then retired to the circle again after a few seconds. Evidently the condor was standing on its food & pulling at it with bill, the body being in a horizontal standing position. A fourth vulture in the group at 2:28. These birds were on a 10± % E. slope; the ground was sparsely covered with dry grass (3-4" high). After 2:34 the feeding was slower, & 10-20 sec. pauses intervened between nibbles. The bird fed facing N, then W, S, E, & N, & W again at 2:41. By 2:41, 7 turkey vultures loitering around the love condor within about 20'. Once the condor walked toward a buzzard, neck outstretched - the buzzard retreated & condor fed apparently on a morsel at that spot. Apparently more than one carcass or morsel present. Twice I saw the condor stretch out its neck & apparently lean over

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3100

Gymnogyps californianus

May 12, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

forward with breast on the ground as if wiping or scratching ~~so~~ neck on the ground. Then 19 vultures, from 6' to 30' from condor. At 2:45 the condor shook up its wings, then took off to NE with 25 flaps. The ~~to~~ vultures scattered as condor flew off. By 2:50, condor was 300± ' high, & all the ~~bu~~ vultures were circling below, having left the feeding spot. By 4 p.m. I saw no more condors from Mt. Poso - fair wind from NW continued. ~~88°F.~~ 80°F. at 4 p.m. Drove down the Poso Creek road to Porterville highway.

May 13, 1946 Mt. Poso, Calif.

Drove from Delano to Mt. Poso, arriving 8 a.m. I put a freshly shot jack rabbit with the 3 other rabbits + 3 squirrels I had out as bait about 500 yds. W. of Mt. Poso. Sky clear, air warm, faint breeze, considerable haze (Breckenridge Mtn., to SE, barely discernible). At about 8:30 turkey vultures appeared: breeze faint to light from W. From Mt. Poso I could see the areas where I put 5 + 3 squirrels yesterday, but neither yesterday nor today have I seen avian activity in that area. 9:32, I saw one condor soaring about 2 miles to E. It wandered over the hills at 200± altitude. I saw then 3 dark birds on a slope below it - a few moments later, one condor was there (I believe condor landed & buzzards left) at 9:42. Condor acted as if feeding on squirrel. The vultures returned 1 by 1 & by 9:50

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 13, 1946 Mt. Posa, Kern Co., Calif.

there were 5 within 20' of condor. 9:51, the condor ran toward a vulture 10± ' away, wings folded, taking about 3 steps per minute, for about 30 steps. The buzzard ran away in a curve ↳, & condor followed. The condor ~~ran~~ resumed feeding. 9:54, an immature circled over the standing group, feet up. 9:57, the imm. alighted 30± ' W. of group + slowly walked up to it. Only 4 vultures were left. The condors + vultures walked about occasionally + seemed not to feed. Only 3 vultures at 10:00. Both condors apparently immatures. Twice I saw one condor walk briskly toward a vulture, the vulture retiring, keeping 6± ' ahead, & condor then acting as if looking for food there. 10:03, 2 vultures remaining, the condors about 20' apart. The condors have not been closer than about 6' together. 10:07, another vulture left. By 10:08, one, then the other, had raised its wings + re-folded them. 10:08, one held wings half extended, then took off to NW (downhill + upwind, 10± % slope) with 3 gallops + 11 flaps, then descended into the canyon bottom 100± yds. downhill. The second bird took a similar course 30± seconds later, taking off with 8 flaps. One vulture was left at the spot. 10:20, I saw 2 cruising at about 200' + 500' altitude about 1 1/2 miles to NW. 10:26, 3 now, about 1 mile SSW of first position. Two circled together at 100± ', & one above them at 500± '. Fair breeze from N. commenced.

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 13, 1946 Mt. Poso, Kern Co., Calif.

The birds approached the vicinity of 6± low circling vultures, then worked N. again, rising (10:32). 10:39, they were scattered for 1/2± mile at 600± ' in vicinity of my 3-squirrel bait - but they continued on (at least 5 condors today it appears). 10:41, I saw 4 condors circling & rising over where I saw the 2 on ground - no vultures were with them. The group split up - 2 soared toward me while one ~~wear~~ worked to E. One of the approachers dipped behind a hill about 1 mile S. At 10:50 there were 4 nearly above me at 500± '; they rose quickly to 1000± ' & set out to NNW. One had a large notch out of ~~at~~ right side of tail tip, & one a #4± left primary missing. ~~Frog~~ I saw 2 give a wing dip as they commenced their long flap-glide. Three were about ~~50~~ 100 yds. apart, & 1 trailed 1/2± mile. 10:53, the one which loitered to S. soared behind a hill about 1 mile to ESE as if to land - so at least 5 condors present. At least 3 of the 4 were adults, one an immature. 11:00, I saw one condor descend as if to alight between hills about 2 miles to NW, to W. of power line 1/2± mile. There certainly seems to be little reason for where the birds feed - there is plenty of food close to Mt. Poso. 11:07, I saw two rise above the hills where 11:00 bird went down - these circled low, occasionally flapping, & at 11:10 descended between the hills again

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May 13, 1946 Mt. Poso, Kern Co., Calif.

near same spot. to 11:12, I saw 11 condors about (or at least 13 total) 1½ miles to SE. 8 were circling in one ~~bunch~~ branch. They glided N. in a loose group, strung out about 1 mile. At least 7 continued N - in direction of the "triangle". Two loitered behind. There were 3 vultures on ground near where I saw them this morning (about 1 mile to SE). One condor spiraled down, feet hanging, + landed in midst of vultures at 11:17 with 3± gentle flaps. The vultures flew off as adult descended but ~~4~~ 3± were on the ground again by 11:20. The second condor circled over but did not land or put feet down. By 11:23 the condor had walked about 60 yds. to N., occasionally stopping. It pecked desultorily at the ground area, then took off (11:23), flap-glided low over the hills, then circled + rose until 500± ' over its takeoff spot at 11:29. Two vultures flew close to it for 2± minutes during ~~first part~~ the soaring, + 2 were still with it at 11:31 when the bird (an immature) commenced a northward flap glide. This bird was a "near-adult"; notch in center ~~back~~ secondaries, bilateral; notch in left side of tail. This bird swung nearly over me (500± ' up) where an imm. was circling, then continued toward the burn alone. By 2 p.m. I saw no more condors; fair wind, sometimes intermittent, temperature 77°F., sky 4/10 cirrus + cirro-stratus, haze lessened (Bear mtn. visible). From Mt. Poso, Adelaide

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May 13, 1946 Mt. Poso, Calif.

Mtn. is prominent to the SSE & is apparently an important point on flight path from Breckenridge-Bear Mtn. area. By 4 p.m. saw no more though I searched the horizon every few minutes with binocs. Wind about 25 miles per hr. - stronger than usual - from NW. By 4:30 no condors appeared & vultures were rare; sky 3/10 cirrus; wind increasing (about 30 m.p.h.). Perhaps the condors took advantage of the wind to go to an especially distant feeding ground, or perhaps they returned to roost by a "short cut", by-passing the rolling hills as their updrafts were unnecessary.

May 17, 1946 Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. Richardson of Porterville said that about 20 yrs. ago he saw two condors overhead on Tule Indian Reservation. He also said that he ~~had~~ had talked with ~~John~~ F.F. Latta of Bakersfield about condors, & that Latta might have historical information of value. Rollo Beck said he had once hunted condors.

May 20, 1946

Stanley Jewett told me that Bob Bach (sp.?), of Fish & Wildlife, now in Boise (?), told him that once he found a condor buried in the sand, the wings chopped off. Mrs. Jean Linsdale said that Lloyd Tevis had lived much on San Emigdio Ranch at Stockdale. Yesterday I overheard Laidlaw Williams

1:25 – add 1 mm. down

:30 – 3 up; add 2 mm. ad. left

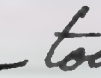
w. [illegible]. +7+V

Gymnogyps californianus

May 20, 1946 Berkeley, Calif.

telling someone that if they wanted to see condors they should contact Leif Peyton at Fillmore.

May 29, 1946 E. of Famoso, Calif.

I drove from Delano to MacFarland, thence eastward on the Woody road until about 1 mile from the junction with Famoso-Woody road. Sky clear, fair NW breeze, air warm. My attention was attracted by about 8 milling turkey vultures about ½ mile E. of the road, & I stopped to watch. At least 5 of the ~~vult~~ vultures perched on the dry-grassy slope of a small hill, & at 1:25 I saw an adult condor circling 100± above them. At 1:30 this condor descended as if to alight about ¼ mile S. of the vultures & over a ridge from them. The condor spiraled with legs extended & wings strongly flexed, & once or twice gave a "dip" of wings. I saw an immature also disappear behind the same hill. About 1:30 the turkey vultures took off - perhaps disturbed by my presence - and ~~th at~~ I saw 3 condors rise from the area. These 3 were one adult with left wing  , 1 imm., & one ?. They circled with the buzzards, then drifted off about ½ mile to S. & separate from the buzzards, then scattered & worked back toward ~~from~~ area where they rose. At 1:40 I saw one

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 29, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

descend behind a hill & at 1:45 a second in the same locality as before (not especially as if to land). 1:55, I saw 2 soaring at about 200' altitude over same area. I walked about 1/4 mile E. of road to a knoll. I saw from there at 2:10 4 condors circling over the rolling hills 3/4 ± mile E. of me. They ranged from about 50 to 300' in altitude & were spread at least 1/2 mile. 2:18, 3 visible still, the adult with 2 gaps in left wing ("A") circling low over the baldish hill where I first saw the condors today, & 2 about 1/2 mile to S. 2:20, a second was 300± ' above "A", legs down, wings flexed, heading very slowly into the wind. Mt. Fulton was directly beyond the bald hill, & Breckenridge mtn. conspicuous to the SE. about 25 burros grazed near me. By 2:25 I saw neither condors nor turkey vultures in air so walked toward the bald hill. at 2:29 I saw 1, & about 2:32, 3 condors over the bald hill - a fourth rose from 3/8 ± mile S. of them & all circled together at about 300' altitude at 3:35, a lone vulture with them. 3:36, 3 circled, one about 1/2 mile N. of the 2. The southern two glided southward & I saw 2 others about 1/4 mile ahead of them also heading S. at about 300' altitude (2:40). I walked to the top of the bald knoll but saw no condors or vul-

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 29, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

turns near - at 2:55 I saw one condor descending apparently over the Little Creek area N. & somewhat E. of Mt. Poso. I returned toward the road & car. At 3:05 I saw 7 condors circling in a group over where the 2:55 bird was. At 3:10, still 7 there, spread 1/2± mile horizontally & 400±' vertically. 3:14, 3 still there & 2 others 1/2± mile to NE of them - apparently scattering and/or descending. The 5 minutes + as a group I believe unusually long. 3:17, 3 were circling about 1 mile E. of where the 7 were - low, possibly descending, & 1 was about 1/2 mile W. of them - no others visible. Fair NW breeze continued. I returned to car & drove on to junction of McFarland-Woody & Famoso-Woody roads. There was a sheep camp with about 500 sheep there, just S. of Little Creek. I continued on 1/2 mile to E. & saw then one adult circling & rising ~~over~~ over the ridge just S. of Little Creek. This adult had ~~4 or 5~~ or 5 nicks in trailing edge of wing & # 7 (±) left primary was about half grown. This bird rose to 500±' & glided over the road to NW. Then I saw another adult flap-circling & rising over the flat ground near the road about 1/2 mile ahead of me. This bird soared away from the road & skimmed the foothills when a car went up the road. The condor nearly met its shadow in gliding close to the slope per

Gymnogyps californianus

May 29, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

hops under 10' from ground at times. This bird flapped up to 7 times occasionally, circled & rose over the N. slope, then I lost it (about 3:45 at 300± ' above ridge S. of Little Creek). Near the spot from which this condor rose I found a turkey vulture feeding on a ground squirrel. The vulture pecked, then raised head & looked about, condor style, & held carcass down with foot. The squirrel was old but soft & had much meat remaining. The tail was separate from carcass & about distal 1/2 was in 1 piece. Head was separate from body & skull broken into 3 or more separate pieces. Internal organs apparently dried up. ~~Hd~~ Leg & flank had apparently recently been nibbled on. I drove then to top of Mt. Poso, arriving at 4:18 p.m. I saw no condors from there by 5 p.m. tho breeze remained fair. I visited my bait of 3 rabbits & 3 squirrels there — all were dry & crackly. The head of the jackrabbit had some meat removed. One squirrel had head removed and about half of ~~cranic~~ brain case missing. Another had one hind leg disarticulated & bare of meat. Otherwise, no sign of condor or other avian activity. I drove back to Delano. Both Poso & Little Creek still have a good stream of water. Until I approached Mt. Poso today I saw not one

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Gymnogyps californianus

May 29, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

ground squirrel - the poisoning must have been quite effective (or estivation?). 5:50 - I stopped on road about 50 yds. from a feeding turkey vulture. The bird flew a few seconds after I opened door. I examined the food - it was a soft but not rotten ground squirrel. The meat + skin was gone from most of the upper surface. Stomach remained in but other internal organs gone. ~~Leg~~ Hind legs eaten down to ankles. Neck + hind head eaten. Skin of under side intact. Ribs mostly cleaned. This is freshest squirrel upon which I have seen a turkey vulture feed.

May 30, 1946 (Memorial Day) Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

My uncle L R Buckingham drove me from Delano to the junction of McFarland-Woody + Famoso-Woody roads. Arrived about 7:30, + by 7:50 I was atop a knoll about 1/4 mile S. of Little Creek from where I could see Mt. Poso about 2 miles to S. + from where I had watched before. Sky 3/10 cirrus + clearing, steady breeze of about 15 m.p.h. from south. Air warm (est. 70°). Saw one turkey vulture about 7:30 + about 2 others by 8 a.m. No sign of the sheep today - probably they moved nearer to Famoso. 4 or 5 sets of concrete foundations indicate that there has been oil exploration here in the past - its failure accounts for the uninhabited state

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of these condor feeding grounds now. By 8:30 I saw several turkey vultures but no condors. 8:40, I saw 1 or 2 turkey vultures on the ground & apparently feeding on squirrels at 3 different spots just north of the road north of me - that area had not been poisoned yet when I last visited this area about 2 weeks ago. 8:47, I saw one probable condor about 2 miles E. of me gliding N. at horizon level. By 9:30, sky 7/10 cirro-stratus & breeze often absent for many minutes at a time - soaring conditions apparently poor in calm periods. Breeze was westerly by 9:40. At 9:57 I saw one about 1 mile N. of me at 800± ' altitude gliding NW. I lost track of it after 3 or 4 minutes - at that ~~times~~ time it seemed to be about over the power line about 1 mile N. of the McFarland-Woody road. Breeze had shifted to NW, & sky 2/10 cirrus. At 10:02 I saw same, or another, in that area, circling & wandering as if searching, & at 10:10 I saw a group of 4 near this one - so at least 5 seen at once. 10:15, I saw one circling about 2 miles NE of me at 500± ' altitude & watched it until 10:20. The bird glided a mile or more to S. in a shallow glide, then circled ~~without~~ rising & gradually descended behind the hills there (about 2 miles to E. of me). 10:27 I saw

: 25 - 1 ad., fl. & rise. then 2 ad & 1 mm in 4 T V.
ad #8 left pr., gap left tent, Vrt tail.

:30, ad & mm. 5 ± T V. ad ft dam. mm alt #8 rt. pr.

:31, ad & 2 mm.

33, ad & mm to N., then mm (2 gapse lft pr.) re-
mand 3/4 mile S.

N. 2 cycled & raise

ford

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one about 1 mile NE of me (same bird?) gliding NW at 500± ' altitude. It continued on about 1½ miles (about over power line, 10:31) then circled 3± times & headed SW at 1000± ' altitude. I lost it at 10:36 when it seemed about 1 mile SE of Reproth Corner. By 11:15 I saw no more. ~~Some~~ Some "plinkers" were shooting from a car about ½ mile W. of me. I walked N. across Little Creek & at 11:25 saw an adult condor flapping & circling as if it had risen from about ¼ mile N. of road. It crossed to the N. slope just S. of Little Creek & rose by circling. This bird had short left #8 primary, a gap in left wing next to body, a notch in right side of tail (N), & some other gaps. About 4 turkey vultures joined the condor, then an adult & imm. condor. The first adult left & another immature joined the remaining 2 condors. They circled & rose, working over the flat at 300± ' altitude, adult with feet down. One imm. was dark & had a short right #8 primary. The other had a gap in left primaries, another in outer secondaries, & had a dark spot in the center of white underwing patches. Adult & imm. soared N. about 1 mile while the other (last described) circled near me. I lost all to view about to 11:35 - the N. two were circling at 1000± when last seen. About 85° estimated, sky 3/10 thin

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cirrus at 11:45. The gunman among feeding condors is bad - we can't protect all feeding areas from such. I hiked N. from the road and was about 3/8 mile N. of it when (at 12:02) I saw two adult condors about 1/4 mile to W. of me circling over a ridge. The birds drifted downwind in the circling ~~to~~ & wind until at the N. slope of ridge just S. of Little Creek. Then they circled & rose. Another adult appeared & circled above them, then when at 400± ' altitude glided E (at 12:06). At 12:07 the lower two were gliding E. too - over Little Creek. Retrogressing - shortly after seen first, one of this pair chased the other briefly. (Apparently immatures don't do this). I could identify none of these as birds I had seen earlier today tho didn't have too good a view. The pair glided to the E. end of the ridge (about 2 miles), then circled & rose until at about 2000' altitude, one 500± ' above the other. Then at 12:16 one headed W. & passed nearly over me. It gave one slow "dip" & ~~accelerated~~ increased much in horizontal velocity for several seconds thereafter. The bird was in a flap-glide of course. It veered to NW, & then I saw another (of the pair probably) following 1/4 ± mile behind & 300± ' below. They continued on to NW until at least 2 miles from me (12:22 - estimated 3 miles in 6 minutes = 30 m.p.h.), then descended

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to W. in a fast glide. The lower bird shot well ahead of the upper in descent. They seemed to be heading for the ~~spot~~ area where I saw 5 earlier today. Retrogressing again - while the two circled nearby about 12:04, one stretched its legs far down once & retracted them in a few seconds. There seemed to be no effect on flight so I believe it was a "leg stretch"; the first I recall having seen in air - the legs were out much farther than the usual "legs down" attitude. A single turkey vulture circled above the two when they circled & rose to 2000± ' about 12:15. I believe condors & vultures associate at roosts, feeding, in air currents, & other places because of similar interests & not because of sociability. I continued on cross-country to the power line near where it crosses ~~Famo~~ McFarland-Woody road. By 2 p.m. I had seen no more condors - and only 2 or 3 turkey vultures. I saw the poisoning crew working about 1 mile N. of road at the power line. The crew consisted of 4 horsemen who rode about 100 ft. apart back & forth over the country. At squirrel burrows I saw much grain (oats) in the open up to 6 or 8' from burrow. Dead squirrels were rare in the country I traversed - I found one carcass apparently recently chewed by a vulture or condor - spine & tail were in one piece (& a few ribs). I found no definite internal organs. Some pieces of skin were wet

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and matted as if chewed. Skull was clean & broken. I hiked on toward McFarland but saw neither condors nor turkey vultures the rest of the afternoon. The area N. of this road had "poison out" signs for several miles, & I saw no live squirrels there.

May 31, 1946 Nr. Mt. Poso, Calif.

At 8 a.m. I was atop same knoll as yesterday morning near junction of McFarland-Woody & Famoso-Woody roads. Sky 6/10 cirrus & cirro-stratus, fair S. breeze, & about 70°F. At 8 a.m. I saw 2 turkey vultures on ground, apparently feeding, & at least 2 others in air. 8:30, 3 vultures at one spot & 5 at another about ~~300~~ 500 yds. N. of Little Creek near me - so food apparently present. SE breeze continued - this morning breeze would favor condors coming from the Breckenridge & Bear Mtn. areas. Then, later in the day, the usual NW breeze would favor their return to those mountains. At 9:53 I saw 1, then 2, about 2 miles to NE toward Blue Mtn., circling at 800± altitude. At 9:59 there were 3, a mile or so NW of first position. The birds then glided W., 1 followed by the 2 at about 1/2 mile behind. 9:03, there were 4 about 1 mile N. of me heading W.. At 9:06 they had grown to 6 - 4 adults & 2 immatures. These, with 1 turkey vulture, circled together about

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1½ miles to NW of me, & rose higher, & drifted about ~~a mile~~ 1 mile to E.. At 9:09 the group broke up & strung off to W., 1 or 2 at a time. In the group, the 2 imm. were 2nd. & 3rd. lowest birds. The vulture trailed the bunch. The group scattered more then, and at 9:15 I saw 4 about 1 mile W. of the 9:09 position scattered over about 1 square mile at 1000±' altitude. I watched one of these until 9:40. It glided to SW slowly for about 2 miles, circled & wandered in that vicinity at same high altitude, then glided fast to N. and at 9:32 was about at its 9:15 position. It continued on to N., then began wandering at lower altitude (300±') apparently near the power line about 3 miles to NNW of me, & there I lost it at 9:40. By then sky was completely overcast with cirro-stratus & a 20± mph wind blew from S., & the vultures had disappeared from the near vicinity. At 10:27 I saw 2 condors circling about 3 miles to N. near the power line - and still at 10:45, wandering over the area at 300±' altitude. On a crossbar of one power line tower was perched an eagle or condor - probably the former - in that same vicinity. I left my stand at 11 a.m. & hiked northward, cross country. Spent some time hunting reptiles, so arrived about

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2 miles NNW of my 11:00 position at about 12:55. The bird on power tower was a golden eagle. I saw then at least 4 - possibly 7 - condors circling low about 1½ miles N. of me (about 2 miles N. of McFarland-Woody road at power line & ½ mile W. of power line). I saw 2 condors ~~to~~ on a dry-grassy ridge there, & I saw 3 others alight - 5 on ridge within about 20' at 12:59. The breeze had shifted to W. about 11 a.m. & to NW about 12:30. Sky 9/10 alto-cumulus & alto-stratus. Breeze at times absent - perhaps the condors were becalmed. I sat to watch. The condors walked about occasionally. at 1:14 I saw one fly at another - 1:18 ~~1:18~~ the other flapped about 15', then both alighted. ~~to~~ one again flew up & flapped off about 20', then alighted & walked back to the group. 1:28, 3 of the condors took off about 30 seconds apart & flew behind the ridge. The last took off to W., flapping hard, turned after about 10 flaps, & continued to E. behind the hill still flapping (20+ flaps on takeoff & turn). Two condors remained on ground as before. The prison crew rode by about ½ mile N. of me. 1:35, one condor landed about 20' to E. of the perched two & apparently walked over to the other 2. The 3 made a compact group. Fair breeze from NW. 1:41, 3 still on ground, perhaps 20' between birds. 1:49, a fourth condor alighted

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by the 3, & one perched one ran a few steps as if to get out of the way. 1:54, one soaring near the perched bunch - probably 1 of them as only 3 visible on ground. This one circled about 1/2 mile SW of the group then, & another soared near the bunch. 1:58, 4 visible on ground in a close group - these birds barely visible because of haze & heat waves at about 2 miles distance. 2:01, 1 condor & 3 vultures circling 200± ' over the perched 3 (or 4). 2:03, the flying condor alighted in the bunch. I hiked toward the perched birds. at 2:35 I was just W. of the power line having come perhaps a mile, but the perched birds still appeared to be about 2 miles distant. There were at least 5 condors in the group - possibly 7 or 8 - and apparently 3± turkey vultures. I hiked 15 minutes more toward the group. At 3:05 I stopped to watch - there were 5 condors ••••• •, one about 100' from the rest on a rounded grassy ridge about 1/4 mile W. of the Portersville-Bakersfield highway perhaps 2 1/2 miles N. of the McFarland road. There seemed to be a light colored object on the ground - a sheep carcass probably. I was still about 1 1/2 miles to SE of the birds. 3:10, only 4 visible, all at the carcass & occasionally tugging at it with bills. Two flew up flapping once & realighted. One took off at 3:14. Two took off 30± sec. later when first soared 50± ' overhead, & the last at 3:15. One apparently realighted about 20'

07 - off 5, then E ½ m - then use -

14 - 1 sq' 2 ad, ft down.

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from the carcass, then took off again at 3:17 + I saw 4 in air. all took off to SE - downhill + downwind it seemed - with many flaps. 3:20 - 4 in air, 2 at about 100' + 2 at about 400'; two turkey vultures alighted at carcass. 3:21, one condor alighted between the two vultures at the carcass (they were 20± ' apart). The vultures flapped off 10± seconds later. 3:22, a second condor alighted. One stood at or on the carcass, apparently feeding, + the other stood 15± ' away. The latter walked around the carcass + tugged from side opposite to first condor. Both fed side by side then. 3:30, one feeding, head down for about 5 seconds, then up for about 4 - 7 seconds, the other bird standing calmly alongside. Sky 6/10 cirrus, fair NW breeze, visibility best of the day. 3:40, both apparently feeding side by side. 3:45, both at carcass still, apparently feeding, sometimes on opposite sides of carcass + sometimes on same side. I walked again, keeping the condors in sight. At 4:07 they took off, one about 15 sec. after the other, when I was about 1 mile away. The birds took off to S., downwind + downhill, then turned E. + flapped with few pauses for about 1/2 mile, then circled and began to rise. At 4:14, they were at about 1,000' altitude feet down, about 1 1/2 miles ESE of the carcass + they continued to circle + rise. Both were adults.

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~~Mar.~~ May 31, 1946 Nr. Mt. Posa, Calif.

They set off in a glide toward Breckenridge Mtn. until about 4 miles from me & at 2000± ft altitude. There they circled again - and I lost them at 4:22. The NW breeze continued. The carcass was about 1 mile N. of a farmhouse - I did not have time to visit it. There were a few cattle in this area.

June 1, 1946 E. of McFarland, Calif.

At 6:30 a.m. I visited the carcass where I saw condors & turkey vultures yesterday - it proved to be a calf, still in the soft-hoofed stage. The hide was brown & white Hereford. The location was about 8½ miles E. of McFarland, about ½ mile W. of Porterville road, & 2½ miles N. of McFarland-Wasco road. The remains were on a rounded ridge covered with 3" cropped dry grass & higher dry volunteer oats. The slope was about 5%. There was a barbed wire fence about 200 yds. to W. & a farmhouse about 1 mile to S. The town of McFarland was clearly visible from there. The remains were in a line for about ~~100~~ 50 yds. Apparently the carcass first lay at the uphill end. There I found many tufts of hair & hide, about 20 pieces of condor-like down, a condor secondary, 2 condor "hackles", & a few turkey vulture feathers. ~~100±~~ 50±' down the slope from this was one ramus, & 50±' further the other ramus. These were neatly cleaned & appar-